

Tory strategy under fire after defeats

Senior ministers and MPs are urging a review of Conservative strategy to counter the Liberal-SDP Alliance threat.

By Philip Webster and Richard Evans

A thorough review of the Conservative Party's electoral strategy to counter the threat of the Liberal-Social Democratic Party is being urged by senior ministers and MPs after the Alliance's success in capturing the previously safe seat of Ryedale, and failing by only 100 votes to do the same at West Derbyshire.

majority at Ryedale and replacing it with a majority of its own of nearly 5,000, and coming within a whisker of erasing the 15,325 lead at Derbyshire West, left MPs pondering the implications of

sive style which deters middle-of-the-road voters. In the Alliance yesterday there was jubilation over the by-election results, tinged with regret that it had just failed to pull off a staggering double.

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a substantial Alliance advance in the general election in the 265 Tory-held seats where it is second. The most likely outcome would be to leave Labour holding the largest number of seats.

Senior ministers admitted that while the militant wing of the Labour Party would always give them a target, there was uncertainty over how to direct their fire against the Alliance. That will be the subject of urgent strategy discussions involving the Prime Minister.

There is uncertainty over whether the present tactics of casting doubts on the ability of the two Alliance parties to hold together in government, or of dismissing them merely as the recipients of tactical votes, is sufficient.

Although the Labour Party had a good night in the local elections, producing further evidence of its recovery under Mr Neil Kinnock, its leaders were profoundly disappointed that its votes in the by-elections were again heavily secured by the Alliance.

In Derbyshire West particularly, where Mr Bill Moore, former chairman of the Privileges Committee, which has called on MPs to bar Mr Evans from the Commons for six months, predicted yesterday MPs would reject the recommendation and no further action would be taken to punish the newspaper (Sheila Gunn writes).

The committee found that Mr Evans had committed a serious breach of the rules of the Commons by leaking a draft report of the Environment Select Committee on nuclear waste. Its recommendation, for Mr Evans's suspension and the withdrawal of one lobby pass from The Times, is likely to be voted on in the Commons before the Whitsun recess on May 23.

Six Conservative and five Labour MPs on the committee voted in favour of that sanction. Mr Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield and the only committee member to vote against it, said yesterday he was rallying opposition. "I do not think the recommendation will go through. I do not believe MPs will want to be on record in the division lobby on this. There are other MPs who feel it is a failure of natural justice that the Environment Select Committee members were not interrogated but the Editor and Mr Evans were. There is also a question of a general character about the misuse of privilege."

Press Council backs Times

The Press Council yesterday expressed serious concern at the House of Commons move to punish The Times and its Lobby Reporter, Mr Richard Evans, for publishing a leaked select committee draft report.

The council's director, Mr Kenneth Morgan, said: "Last year the Press Council protested at the Committee of Privileges' suggestion to suspend journalists' gallery and lobby passes if their newspapers published serious leaks from Commons select committees."

"We said it would impose the wrong penalty on the wrong people. The Committee's proposal to suspend Mr Evans and cut The Times facilities to cover Parliament is just such a case."

"The job of the Press is to disclose, not conceal. Restricting the right to report Parliament should not be used as a weapon against a newspaper in a society that believes in press freedom and a politically informed public."

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Continued on page 2 col 8



The Princess of Wales swathed in a kimono presented to her yesterday at a garden party at Nijo Castle in Kyoto. (Kimono fit for a princess, page 4)

Experts calm worst fears of Chernobyl

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Warnings of an immediate and catastrophic melt-down at the stricken Chernobyl nuclear reactor were discounted yesterday by leading members of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the first independent experts permitted into the disaster zone since the explosion there on April 26.

The three-strong team from the respected Vienna-based organization said that the situation at Chernobyl was now stabilizing, with radiation levels falling.

They announced that from yesterday, the Soviet Union had agreed to provide reports from seven radiation monitoring stations to the agency.

Speaking to a crowded Moscow news conference, the experts said temperatures inside the damaged No 4 reactor at Chernobyl were now significantly below meltdown point and still decreasing.

Their answers left a number of important questions about the nature of the Soviet rescue operation unanswered.

Questioned by reporters about whether a melt-down at Chernobyl was still possible, Mr Morris Rosen, director of the agency's Division of Nuclear Safety, replied: "As a matter of physics, it cannot be completely excluded. However, the chain reaction stopped immediately after the accident and never restarted."

The American scientist added that according to the information provided to him by the Soviet authorities from measurements taken by infrared techniques, fuel temperatures at the crippled reactor were "significantly below melting point and still decreasing."

Mr Rosen explained that the Soviet emergency team - which is working in conditions of considerable personal risk - is now striving to "entomb" the crippled reactor in concrete. If this is achieved, it will be left to cool over an unspecified period inside its covering.

Speculation about the meltdown had been encouraged by the fact that the reactor is now buried under nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand, lead and other materials dropped from the sky and increasing downward pressure on its foundation.

by the IAEA said: "The damaged reactor suffered some fire in parts of the graphite. These fires have been extinguished but temperatures remain high. Re-criticality is not considered a problem. The aim is to encase the whole fourth unit in concrete and work has begun to place a concrete foundation under the reactor."

Despite the assurances from the three-strong IAEA team

Technicians tunnel 5 Children evacuated 5

which arrived here on May 5, Western scientific experts noted later that there were secret elements of the Soviet rescue operation.

There was no evidence of what kind of techniques were being referred to or whether they posed any special risks.

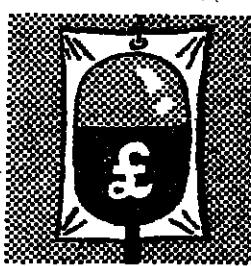
At one point, the team said that at the height of the disaster, the outside radiation level at the site and its vicinity had reached 36 millirems per hour.

The international experts also denied a claim by the Ukrainian Prime Minister made to a small group of Western newsmen that the reactor temperature had dropped to 300C. They said after a helicopter tour to within 800 yards, parts were much hotter than that.

There were angry scenes in the large Foreign Ministry press room when Western correspondents suspected that their attempts to seek basic details about the seriousness of the disaster and its implications were being blocked by a Soviet technique of using written questions from Russian reporters to make propaganda points.

As it turned out, Mr Hans Blix, the agency's director general, saw to it that all questions were taken, if not answered. For the first time, he gave exact details of the delay by the Kremlin in announcing the disaster to the world. Despite earlier Soviet claims to the contrary, he said that the Soviet representative in Vienna had only confirmed that an accident had taken place after Mr Blix had questioned him following reports from anxious Scandinavian governments about increased radiation levels.

Monday Hospitals in crisis



Has the cash flow from London to the regions changed the health service for the better? Start of a three-part series

Life at the top British women at the pinnacle of their careers

Portfolio £32,000 to be won

There is £32,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, £16,000 in the daily competition because no one has won since Tuesday and £16,000 in the weekly because no one won last week. Portfolio list, page 20, rules and how to play, page 28, weekly list, information service, page 16.

Medicine plea

The lives of about 7,000 thrombosis victims in Britain could be saved every year if preventive treatment was made more widely available, medical experts said. Page 3

Polling halted

The Bangladesh regime of President Ershad, embarrassed by the violence used by its supporters in the general election, halted polling in 109 constituencies to see if fresh voting is needed. Page 4

Labour gains local control Conflict likely on rates and finance

By David Walker

Thursday's elections removed Conservatives from power in a great tract of town and city government in England and Wales and the entirety of the Scottish councils. They set the scene for renewed friction between councils and the central government over rates and spending levels.

Conservatives now control only a single big city district, Solihull in the Birmingham conurbation. A great swath of urban administration is now in Labour hands, from Slough and Stevenage in the South-east to Blackburn and Burnley in the North-west. Embarrassing Conservative losses included such heartland towns as Great Yarmouth, Chester, Hemel Hempstead and Woking.

Of 32 London boroughs, the Conservatives now control only 11. Labour, despite losing Tower Hamlets to the SDP-Liberal Alliance, were the clear winners in 15, with some votes still to be counted this morning in Haringey, where the controversial Labour leader Mr Bernard Grant saw his ward electors increase his majority.

Strengthened in Richmond, the Alliance (mainly Liberals) took control in neighbouring Sutton and eroded the Conservative majority in Kingston.

But a provocative result for the Conservatives was their victory in Wandsworth, where an aggressive policy of privatization and asset sales seemed to have convinced a majority of electors to add four more years to the party's eight-year run.

Likely results of the council

elections are upward pressure on municipal spending and reopening of ideological battles within the Labour Party. Within a month, many councils will start preparation of their budgets for 1987-88, and the signs are that newly elected councillors, Alliance and Labour, will try to in-

Table with 2 columns: PARTY GAINS AND LOSSES, and rows for C, Lab, L, SDP, Ind, SNP, PC, Oth with Gains and Losses values.

Results from 201 comparable councils in England, Wales and Scotland. crease spending, even at the expense of rate rises. The Government will have to consider extending its rate-cap mechanism to such metropolitan districts as Bradford.

Many Labour councillors will agree with yesterday's remark by Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers' and Allied Trade Union praising a "ballot backlash against policies of closing schools, cutting social services and slashing council house-building."

As a result of the London elections, Labour will become the predominant party on the

Continued on page 2, col 3

25,000 will not see the Final

By Peter Davenport

Around 75,000 football fans from Merseyside will be heading to Wembley Stadium today for the first ever FA Cup Final between Liverpool and Everton.

Although only 50,000 of them will be guaranteed entry, thousands will be travelling in the hope of buying a black market ticket, or just to sample the atmosphere.

Gate receipts for the match are £1.2 million but on the black market £25 tickets have been changing hands in Liverpool for two examples of forged tickets had turned up.

The match is being billed as "a friendly final" with the two teams scheduled to travel home on the same chartered aircraft and, unless the result is a draw, to stage a joint tour of the city tomorrow.

FA officials say that fans' behaviour, a year after the disaster at the Heysel stadium in Brussels, will have an important influence on when European authorities allow English teams back into their competitions.

Mr Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said: "The game could be one of the most critical in our football history."

Setting, page 21 Match preview, page 32

£5bn wiped off shares

Share prices took another hammering on the stock market yesterday largely because of the Government's setback in the elections. The Financial Times index of 30 leading shares has fallen by more than 50 points this week, wiping £5 billion off share values.

There were further widespread losses yesterday before

officials, the standard Civil Service briefcase comes in two grades: a PVC model costing £7.36 and a slightly better leathercloth one costing £25.19. Both are in black, with the royal cipher stamped in gold. A Treasury spokesman was at pains to point out yesterday that the Civil Servant is not entitled automatically to a briefcase handout; he has to prove that he needs one. Additionally, whether he gets the cheap plastic item or the marginally swankier leathercloth depends not on the grade of the individual but the grade of what it is intended to carry: plastic for documents so that no unauthorised person would dream of wanting to find them scattered on top of a bus, leathercloth for those deemed slightly more sensitive. "An officer can apply for a briefcase, but he has to prove a need, like requiring to take papers home. Leather ones with brass locks are rare, and are for classified papers," the Treasury spokesman said. All Government briefcases are supplied by the Stationery

Solicitor robes up for court

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

A solicitor will make history on Tuesday when he stands up in place of a barrister in the High Court, attired in robe and wing collar, to read out an apology in a libel action.

The appearance of Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, comes after the High Court judges announced yesterday a small extension of solicitors' rights.

The statement comes in the wake of the test case in which Mr Smith is being sued by Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Torfaen, and 24 other MPs over remarks made during the Falklands war.

Mr Brett criticized the direction as "welcome news for all specialist libel lawyers as it will save unnecessary costs - barristers' fees, in announcing terms of settlement at the end of a libel action." To that extent it was a vindication of the test case brought with the backing of the Law Society and Times Newspapers, where Mr Brett is a employed in the legal department.

But in other respects it was a "timid and pathetic attempt at a reform recommended over six years ago by the Royal Commission on Legal Services to streamline a cumbersome and expensive legal system."

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar's fees and legal aid committee, said he hoped the direction would mark an end to what "has been a source of aggravation"

Law Report, page 28

Hunt tribute to Tenzing

Sherpa Tenzing, who died yesterday, aged 72, had an exceptional desire to get to the summit of Mount Everest, according to Lord Hunt, who led the first expedition to reach the top of the highest mountain in the world. "He was so single-minded that he was my obvious choice

as Sherpa leader and as one of the climbers. In those days it was almost unheard of for a Sherpa to be one of the actual team. I shall never forget... when they came down from the summit," Lord Hunt said yesterday. Man of the mountains, page 3 Obituary, page 15

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Geoffrey Smith

How severely has the Government been damaged by Ryedale, West Derbyshire and the local elections? Are these just extreme examples of mid-term depression? Or are we seeing the first signs of terminal illness, in much the same way that Labour's electoral humiliations in 1967 and 1968 presaged the defeat of the Wilson Government in 1970?

The criticism of the Government is all the more damaging for often being assumed rather than argued. It frequently seems to be taken for granted that she has gone too far and that it is imperative to "get this lot out".

It was this general disaffection, this feeling that the Government has become remote and insensitive to public opinion, rather than any tactical failings in the conduct of the campaigns that was responsible for the setbacks.

It is when the defeat of a particular candidate is accepted as the overriding priority that people are ready to vote tactically. The Liberals were openly playing for the tactical vote in both campaigns, but what was significant was that so many people needed no prompting.

Consequences of tactical voting

The natural effect is that the main enemy for the Conservatives differs from one contest to another. This is sometimes presented as a Conservative advantage. The party has the luxury of a divided opposition, so it is said.

I do not see it like that. The more the opposition to the Conservatives is split, the harder it will be for any other party to win an overall majority of seats. But the more tactical voting there is, the more the electorate is concentrating on defeating the Conservatives, the more seats they are likely to lose.

According to the conventional wisdom, there will be much less tactical voting in a general election. Up to a point that is true.

There will be many constituencies in a general election, when there are fewer individual constituency opinion polls, in which it will be difficult for the prospective tactical voter to know in which direction to move. It was critical that he knew in Ryedale and less certainly in West Derbyshire.

Importance of schools crisis

Much of the indignation in the by-elections was focused on issues that are either purely local or ephemeral. The composition of the next government will not be determined by the future of the Filey coast-guard station. Pensioners will surely have forgotten by then their resentment at the modesty of their 40p rise.

Whether rural bus services will be mutilated by the new arrangements should be clear by the general election. If they are, the Conservatives will be crucified in country areas. But the Conservatives claim that they will not suffer if justified, then the issue should disappear.

'Hijacked' Bangladesh polls closed as Ershad ponders his next move

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Compelled finally to face the reality of the "election hijack" committed by its supporters the Bangladesh Government has suspended the election in 109 constituencies while it considers what to do next.

Counting has been stopped in those constituencies where presiding officers closed their polling stations because of violence, intimidation or ballot seizure.

The 109 constituencies represent more than a third of the 300 which were open to election for the national Parliament. Returning officers, who are the deputy commissioners in each district, were last night besieging the Election Commission in the capital with anxious inquiries as to what they should do next.

They were told that they must make a report in writing to the chief election commissioner and have it sent by hand, a process that, with land communications being as they are in the riverine countryside, could take some time.

The commissioner will then decide whether the votes in the booths that were suspended would materially have affected the total result. If that

is the case, a further poll will have to be held in those constituencies.

The decision to stop the polls came as 184 results had been announced.

One of the astonishing aspects of the whole election was that despite the wholesale ballot rigging and violence that was well-attested by journalists and other observers, the opposition Awami League was running neck-and-neck with the government Jatiyo party.

In fact for much of the day the eight-party alliance around the League had a majority of seats.

Conies in the League suggested yesterday that the polling was stopped because the Government did not like the number of seats the opposition was getting.

Dr Kamal Hossain, a senior figure in the Awami League and its presidential candidate in the last elections, declared squarely: "The Jatiyo party was not leading in those constituencies."

Dr Hossain was unofficially declared to have lost in both the Dhaka constituencies he was contesting despite the fact that this reporter, among sev-

eral others, saw blatant violence and intimidation.

A senior official of the Election Commission, Mr Burhanuddin Ahmed, said yesterday that seven other constituencies in which the result had not been announced would soon be completed.

He said that two seats which had been announced as going to the Awami League had been wrongly awarded. In one the Jatiyo party had won and in the other the seat was won by a National Awami party candidate.

Asked why the total number of seats announced had dropped from 186 to 184 Mr Ahmed said, shrugging: "There may be some mistake in the calculation because people have been working day and night."

The People's Commission for Free Elections, which was established under the aegis of the Awami League to provide an "impartial" oversight, reported yesterday that Election Commission officials were under the instructions of the Army in certain areas and that the Army helped candidates in Chittagong, Faridpur, Khulna and other places.

Gadaffi threatens Egypt and Italy

Colonel Gadaffi, saying Libya would attack any country displaying hostility or encouraging "terrorism" against it, has singled out Italy and Egypt as possible targets (Reuter reports).

In a speech in Benghazi, monitored by the BBC in London, he said Libya would answer violence with violence.

He said, referring to last month's US air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi: "From now on, vis-a-vis Egypt, Italy and any country which we consider in a hostile position to us... we will treat them as America treats the world now."

Nor would Libya "turn a blind eye to any new US campaigns from Italy", he said, adding that the Sixth Fleet, which uses Italian ports, could be destroyed by Libyan suicide operations.

"If the Americans land on the Libyan coast, they will burn; they will die. I ask for one million Libyans to be ready to fight in cities and what is requested is that each one of you pays the price of a rifle..."

After what he called the failure of last month's attacks, he said the US was thinking of

deploying cruise missiles against Libya.

"To hell with cruise missiles. We do not fear cruise missiles. We do not fear bombers... We have a right to our land. Our determination is stronger than their iron, which we have weakened and destroyed."

CAIRO: Colonel Gadaffi lost 300 troops in last month's raids and made up the story that a girl who was killed was his adopted daughter, a former Libyan prime minister said (AP reports).

Mr Abdel-Hamid Bakoush, who was Prime Minister when the colonel seized power in 1969, said: "Gadaffi made this claim just to make the Libyans people believe that he was sharing in the consequences of the American attack. A girl indeed was killed, but her father is a soldier and he is alive."

MADRID: Spain expelled Mr Saed Mohamed Alsalam Esmail, the Libyan consul-general, accusing him of helping a Spanish army colonel, named as Carlos Meer de Ribera, military governor of Avila, to seek support for extreme right-wing activities from Colonel Gadaffi (Reuter reports).

Achille Lauro sentences cut on appeal

Rome - A Genoa appeal court has reduced sentences for the illegal possession of arms imposed on the Palestinian hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise liner in October (John Earle writes).

Magid Molqi, described as the gang leader, had his sentence cut from eight to 6½ years, and Ibrahim Abdelatif from 7½ years to 5½ years.

The court confirmed the lower sentence of four years given to Ahmed el Assedi, who had turned state evidence. The 6½-year sentence on Bassam Ashker was quashed because he was found to be only 17.

The others will be defendants in the main trial next month for seizing the ship and murdering an American.

Temple attack splits Punjab Sikh leaders

Amritsar (AP) - Moderate Sikh leaders in Punjab are facing a political crisis triggered by a split over the recent raid on the Golden Temple.

In the latest development yesterday, Sikh terrorists killed three Hindus, raising the death toll from terrorist shootings to 44 this week.

The seven-month-old state Government of the Chief Minister, Mr Sarjit Singh Barnala, was reduced to a minority when 27 of the moderate (Amal Dal party's) 73 legislators defected in protest at last week's commando assault on the temple.

To halt further erosion of his political base, Mr Barnala appointed nine of his legislators to the chairmanships of public-sector corporations.

Damascus warned by Peres

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel had no intention of attacking Syria and there were no indications that Syria planned to attack Israel in the near future, Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday.

But Syria faced "real and clear risks" if it was found to be behind future terror incidents.

During a radio interview he discounted as "mere rhetoric" reports that an attack of any sort was imminent.

The Prime Minister was reacting to a report in the US by the CBS network quoting Israeli military experts as saying it was necessary to strike quickly because of the rapidly growing strength of the Syrian Army.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, was also said to have told American officials during his trip to Washington this week that Israel was going to retaliate against Syria because it was behind last month's attempt to blow up an El Al jet flying from London to Tel Aviv.

In his interview Mr Peres avoided saying what Israel would have done if the jet had exploded in mid-air. The Syrians now had a very clear choice, he said. They would have to run the risk of being a land from which terror was carried out, or they would have to exclude themselves from "this very dangerous club".

PARLIAMENT MAY 9 1986

Dangers at sea Bill to reduce death toll of fishermen

COMMONS

Labour MPs from constituencies having strong links with the fishing industry warmly congratulated Mr Albert Morrison (Banff and Buchan, C) on the passage through the Commons of his Safety at Sea Bill, designed to improve safety requirements for fishing vessels.

It contains provisions dealing with emergency position indicating radio beacon automatic release life rafts and life jackets. As sponsor, Mr McQuarrie said, when successfully moving the third reading of the Bill, that he hoped it would make a significant contribution to safety. The sea was a dangerous place and fishing a dangerous occupation and it would always be so.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said he regretted that the requirement about wearing a life jacket on deck had not been achieved, but was pleased that earlier during the report stage a clause on safety training had been inserted.

some of his constituents depended on the work of fishermen.

I never put a piece of fish into my mouth (he said) without silent thoughts of the fishermen who have gone out in the kind of weather we have had this past winter.

The Bill was read the third time. It now goes to the House of Lords.

During the report stage, a Government new clause on safety training for fishermen was successfully moved by Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport. It allows the Secretary of State for Transport to make regulations for safety training and provides for fines to be imposed on owners, skippers and other seamen who contravene them.

Mr Mitchell said his own general preference was that such matters be put on a voluntary basis but the industry was prepared to see his power over the matter. Fishing still had four times more danger than coal mining, a powerful argument for compulsion.

indications about the quality or length of training courses or about the subjects to be covered.

Mr McQuarrie: The instructors are men of the highest qualifications and cover fire fighting, survival at sea and first aid.

Dr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) asked if the Government was satisfied with the level of provision, quantity and quality of fire fighting training for fishermen. The only training seemed to be a one day course.

Mr Stuart Randall, Opposition spokesman on fisheries (Hull West, Lab) said it was crucially important that fishermen should undergo training, whether provided voluntarily by the industry or by the state, and it was questionable whether the money should have the level of discretion provided by the clause.

The new clause was agreed to and added to the Bill.

A new clause providing that immersion suits should be made available for each fishing crew member was withdrawn after Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, explained that consultations were to take place with the industry on the issue.



Professors strike

About 300 professors, students and staff members of the American University of Beirut have refused to work until the release of Beirut's latest kidnap victim, Professor Nabil Matat (above). Dr Natar, aged 36,

professor of cultural studies, was kidnapped three days ago as he was walking to the campus. The university's 100-member foreign faculty and staff have shrunk to fewer than a dozen in the past three years.

Shultz admits Marcos problem

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said yesterday that former President Marcos of the Philippines had become a problem for the US because he no longer wanted to remain in exile in Hawaii but had nowhere else to go.

"We don't want people in our country who don't want to be there," Mr Shultz said. "So if there's some place else where he can go, that would be better."

No third country was prepared to take Mr Marcos and his family, the Philippine Government, "so I guess under the circumstances, he probably will be staying in Honolulu". Mr Shultz told the departure press conference in Manila after a 25-hour stop-over for talks with President Aquino.

Mr Shultz and President Reagan asked the Aquino Government last week to reissue Mr Marcos with a passport to allow him to travel to a third country.

The former leader's passport was cancelled soon after he arrived in Hawaii on February 26 after fleeing the revolt in Manila.

Although Mrs Aquino has not formally rejected his request, her Cabinet is opposed to the idea and instead wants Mr Marcos to remain in the US where he is facing criminal proceedings in connection with huge property holdings allegedly illegally obtained.

Mr Shultz said the issue of a passport for Mr Marcos was not raised in any of his talks. "I didn't bring it up and other people didn't bring it up."

During her 45-minute meeting with Mr Shultz, Mrs Aquino told him that Washington's offer of an additional \$150 million (about £95 million) aid to the Philippines' debt-ridden economy fell "far short" of the country's needs.

Kimono fit for a British Princess

From David Watts, Kyoto

The Prince of Wales would make a good Buddhist monk and the Princess's grace could clearly match that of any girl.

Prince and Princess had a day of marvellous sunshine in Kyoto, the city that was Japan's capital for 1,000 years. Prince Charles discussed Buddhism with a leading priest in an exquisite moonlit temple, while the Princess of Wales took a few giraffe-like strolls in a 2,000-year-old kimono which risked scaring the monks and was the gift of the city's kimono makers' association.

Since the kimono makers did not know the Princess's exact foot size, they made 10 pairs of the required socks.

To the delight of her hosts, she briefly donned the kimono when it was presented to her at a garden party at Nijo Castle.

After walking past a line of tiny schoolchildren fairly bursting with excitement and chanting "Diana San, thank you for your letter", she and the Prince were served sweet rice cakes by the tea master of the world's largest tea ceremony, the Urasenke school.

Whisking the green liquid to a froth, Grand Teasener Sashitsu Sen XI intoned: "In my hands I hold a bowl of tea. I see the whole of nature."

The highlight of the day for Prince Charles appeared to be a visit to Toji-ji Zen temple, founded in 1235. The jolly chief priest, Teizan Yasuda, when asked if the Prince would make a good Buddhist monk, replied: "Of course, because he has a very honest character."

Last night, after a reception the royal couple attended a formal Japanese dinner given by Mr Shintaro Abe, the Foreign Minister. The 12-course meal included a Western salad at the request of the royal party.

Deadlock at Addis conference

Addis Ababa (AFP) - Two days of reconciliation talks between Horn of Africa neighbours Ethiopia and Somalia ended here yesterday without the two sides apparently having come to grips with the substantive issues at stake.

In a joint press statement, the two merely said they had decided to meet again in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, to try to reach final agreement on the agenda.

That clearly suggested that the first formal conference between the rival East African states in 10 years had not gone beyond considering, much less agreeing, on a mutually-acceptable agenda.

The meeting was the first session of the Ethiopia-Somalia ad hoc committee proposed by the two countries' leaders early this year.

Washington view Undertones to new harmony

Further unilateral strikes against nations defying the new Shultz doctrine on hitting back against terrorists.

Officials in and out of government agree that the sharp divergence goes deeper than mere differences on how to deal with terrorists.

Mr Richard Burt, the feisty US Ambassador to Bonn, argued recently that the real reason lay in differing views

Washington view

on the use and limitations of power.

In all world crises over the past 20 years, he said, the dominant US impulse was to do something about situations Washington would not accept.

Europe, by contrast, preferred to isolate itself from the consequences of events it felt powerless to influence.

Mr Burt believed the answer lay in trying to boost the Europeans' self-confidence, making them more able to stand up for themselves. This could only come through greater political unity, which the US should encourage.

By contrast, Dr Henry Kissinger thinks only the shock of the US insisting Europe do more to defend itself will restore the concept of "reciprocal obligations", now being drained from the alliance.

Improved consultation, the traditional medicine for alliance ills, will not suffice. Europe must no longer feel free to dissociate itself from

Washington view

US actions where events outside the Nato alliance produce world crises.

Dr Kissinger also touches on something that has long irked Americans, especially this Administration: the "myths" that Europe, more sophisticated and worldly wise, can restrain the "immature, belligerent Americans".

He denounces European governments who pander to this perception to curry favour at home.

Dr Kissinger echoes some of the anti-Europeanism of the New Right here today. It is a feeling as much directed against the old liberal US establishment, perceived as incorrigibly and snobbishly transatlanticist, as it is against European liberals who are soft on communism but quick to exploit US markets.

But such views, currently fashionable, are still not those of the American heartland. As one senator's aide told me, most Americans still take pride in their European origins, like to go on holiday there, stand in awe of European culture and react to anti-Americanism with hurt and mystification.

Many men, in ignorance of the relative statistics of road accidents and plane hijackings, are cancelling their holidays to Europe this year. But few want the US to turn its back on its old allies - although these allies must understand the US today is sharper and more belligerent in defending its own, American, interests.

General strike threatened in Gibraltar

From Dominique Searle, Gibraltar

Gibraltar's commercial shipping is in jeopardy and the colony threatened by a general strike after relations between workers and management collapsed this week.

Without consulting their union, the 600-member workforce ejected the management of Gibraltar from the yard on Wednesday and demonstrated in Main Street. They queued for unemployment benefit to try to force the Gibraltar Government, which owns the yard, to take action.

On Thursday police had to intervene when demonstrators tried to burn an effigy of Gibraltar's managing director, Mr Brian Abbot, in the town centre.

All branches of the union are meeting today to decide whether to call a general strike. The union is determined that the management negotiates without preconditions and co-operates with the union, or leaves Gibraltar.

Strike-hit supermarket may sack black staff

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

South Africa's biggest supermarket chain, Pick 'n Pay, said yesterday it was considering whether to issue an ultimatum to striking black staff to return to work by early next week or face dismissal.

The company also said it had been forced to close three supermarkets and seven supermarkets because of "unruly behaviour" by strikers who had invaded the stores, threatening customers and other staff still working.

Pick 'n Pay, which has an annual turnover of 2,250 million rand (£700 million), operates about 90 retail outlets throughout the country and employs 21,000 people, of whom 14,000 are black, Coloured (mixed-race) or Indian.

According to the company, 6,200 employees at 45 stores are involved in the strike.

operators, packers, cleaners and canteen and warehouse staff. Pick 'n Pay has managed to keep most of its stores open by hiring white housewives and schoolchildren on holiday to supplement skeleton management staffs.

An explosion on a fire escape staircase near a Pick 'n Pay supermarket in a northern Johannesburg suburb last Tuesday is now thought to have been caused by a limpet mine. It has not yet been linked to the strike.

What makes the strike of particular interest is that the Pick 'n Pay chairman, Mr Raymond Ackerman, has a reputation as one of the most enlightened employers in South Africa and has been one of the most outspoken business opponents of apartheid.

"This is a tragedy," he told The Times on the telephone from Cape Town. "We have built our company on human relations. They are striking against a company that has been fighting apartheid for 15 years."

The average monthly wage of Pick 'n Pay's black employees is about 430 rand a month.

The Chernobyl disaster: meltdown fears as squabbles break out in the EEC

Technicians tunnel under reactor to inject concrete layer

By Robin Young

Soviet technicians are desperately tunnelling under the Chernobyl atomic reactor in an attempt to inject more concrete beneath the existing floor.

Some experts believe that the Chernobyl pressure vessel - which could lead to a meltdown - may already have been destroyed.

Mr John Large, a consulting engineer who did research work for the UK Atomic Energy Authority on reactor installations, said yesterday: "It is probable that the reactor was supported by a steel diaphragm of structural webbing over three or three and a half metres of concrete which would break up at any temperature over 1200C."

"By burying the fire the Russians have simply prevented it from cooling down. If the reaction is entirely uncontrolled it would be equivalent to 4,000 megawatts of energy, sufficient to vaporize its way through the concrete."

Mr Peter Potter, a nuclear reactor physicist and former overseas manager of the National Nuclear Corporation, said a meltdown is a real possibility at Chernobyl.

"But the idea of a nuclear molten pool melting its way through the centre of the earth is a science fiction myth. It will stop itself. But if the mass burns its way through the reactor's concrete foundation, and if the water table is close to the surface, the reaction will create a chain of volcanic explosions. The size of these explosions is unpredictable."

"We just don't know the

true scenario to this disaster. But rivers, reservoirs and waterways will be contaminated. Contaminated water could reach as far as the Black Sea, but by then it will be greatly diluted."

Dr Richard Downing, manager of the hydrogeology unit at the British Geological Survey, said: "If there is a meltdown there is a heat factor and a radioactive contamination factor."

"Contaminated ground water will move towards the nearest river system, but the movement of ground water is very slow. There will also be a chemical reaction between the radioactive material and the rocks."

He said the Russians could control the movement of ground water by drilling wells in the immediate area to attract the contaminated water.

"They will then have a problem of how to get rid of the contaminated water. He added they could also build a concrete wall right round the disaster zone to control the ground water flow."

Mr Stewart Boyle, national energy campaign officer for Friends of the Earth, said yesterday: "Nobody seriously thought that this could happen. If the nuclear meltdown meets the water table it will pollute the whole water system throughout the Ukraine and beyond."

Estimates of how widespread and long-lived pollution in the Ukraine might be are entirely guesswork, but Friends of the Earth point out that hundreds of square miles in the southern Urals had to

be abandoned completely after a comparatively small steam explosion at a nuclear waste dump at Kyshtyn in the 1970s.

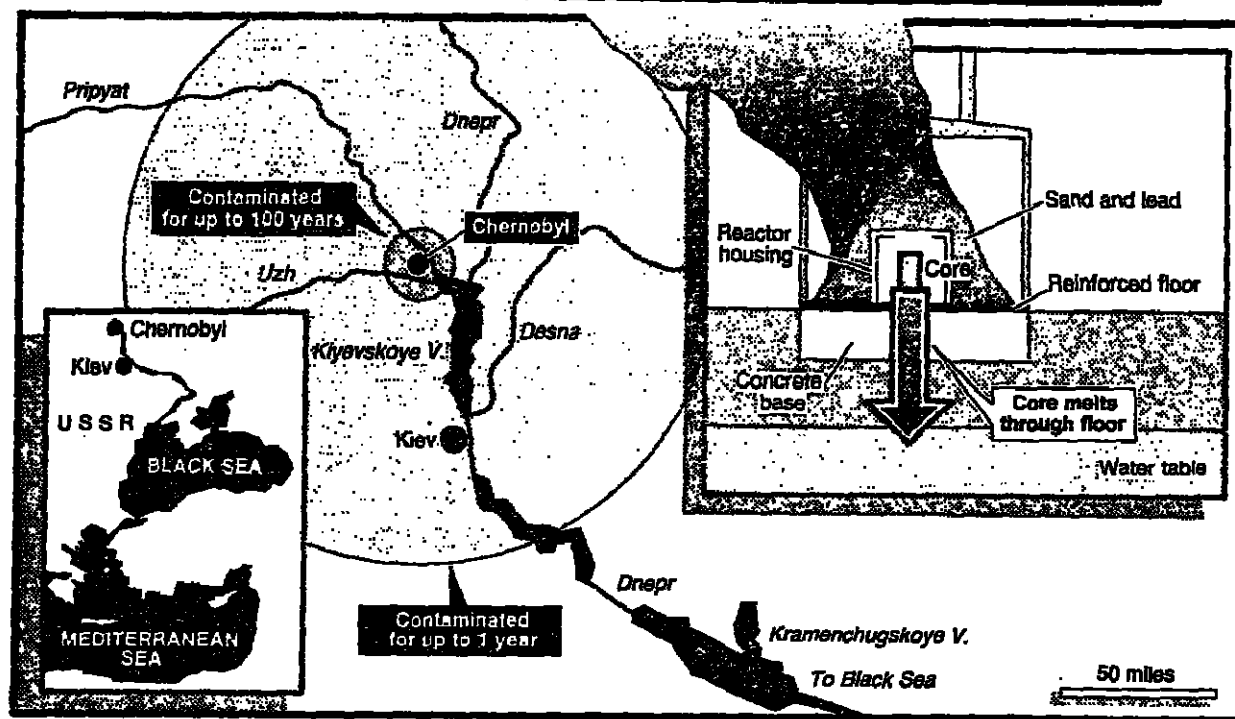
Mr Large said that if the pollution reaches the water courses it will be likely to pollute the whole of the water system of the Ukraine within a year.

"If the subsoil is clay it would absorb and retain some of the isotopes such as caesium, but there are hundreds of others such as curium, plutonium and ruthenium, which would disperse and could persist for thousands of years."

Professor Ian Fells, professor of energy conversion at Newcastle University, was more optimistic. "I would be very surprised if the meltdown has penetrated more than a few tenths of centimetres into the massive concrete foundation," he said, "though I must admit that I am concerned to hear that the Russians are talking of sealing the reactor both above and below."

"The UK Atomic Energy Authority has done all the calculations about the effect of meltdown on the concrete foundation and it is a pity that they cannot make them public."

"I can only speak from my understanding of the calculations and those which have been made by the Germans and others, and point out that in the similar accident at Three Mile Island a serious, if partial, meltdown was contained by the concrete foundation and it is a pity that the calculations suggested."



How the meltdown might break through into the water table and the possible area of contamination that could follow.



Katya Litvinova, in her mother's arms, taking the official radiometric check in Kiev with some degree of suspicion.

Kohl will write to Gorbachov

From Frank Johnson Bonn

The West German Cabinet, at a meeting yesterday on the Chernobyl disaster, called for an emergency session of governments of the International Atomic Energy Organization in Vienna next week.

It also decided that Chancellor Kohl should write to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov expressing dissatisfaction with the death of information from the Soviet Union, and asking for more.

It was Herr Kohl's first Cabinet meeting since his return from the Tokyo summit and he seemed anxious to appear in command of the situation and to avoid any charge of complacency.

Ministers are infuriated by some regional governments which they believe have exaggerated the radiation levels, and suspect political motives.

Kiev sends children away

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

New evidence of concern at the radiation risks being faced in Kiev, the third largest Soviet city, came with an official announcement that all children aged between six and 13 and breast-feeding mothers are being sent away from the region for the whole summer.

In an effort to defuse further suggestions of mass panic, the Soviet authorities said simply that as a precautionary measure, the decision had been taken to bring forward the summer holidays of some 250,000 schoolchildren, who would normally have gone away for the summer even had there been no disaster.

The announcement, which also said that because of the disaster at Chernobyl, holiday centres in the region could not be used, followed increasing signs of a mass voluntary exodus of mothers and children from the city, about 60 miles south of the stricken reactor.

Yesterday Mr Valentin Sgarby, the Mayor of Kiev,

Italy upset by Bonn and Paris

From John Earle Rome

Italy is angry with France and West Germany for allegedly making difficulties in the EEC for Italian exports of vegetables while playing down the radioactivity in their own agricultural produce.

Giuseppe Zamberletti, the Minister for Civil Defence, said he saw "a manoeuvre against Italy". Italy was further away from Chernobyl than other countries, yet had given fuller information and taken stricter measures, Signor Zamberletti said. But why were people abroad so severe towards Italian vegetables, he asked, and not towards milk exported by Germany?

"I would like to know the situation in France, which does not give figures of radioactivity because they are a state secret," the minister said.

Chilean church defied on raids

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's military Government yesterday defied the leader of the Roman Catholic Church and ordered more raids on Santiago slums as part of its anti-guerrilla drive.

Residents of La Banderita in the south of the capital said troops and police began rounding up men for identity checks in a local soccer stadium, the sixth such operation in less than a fortnight. The Archbishop of Santiago, Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno, said the raids spread fear and offended the dignity of the poor.

Basques claim Madrid blast

The military wing of ETA, the Basque separatist organization, yesterday took responsibility for Thursday's failed grenade attack on the President of Spain's Supreme Court in Madrid (Richard Wigg writes).

Meanwhile the Interior Ministry said Costa Rica had agreed to extradite to Spain Gregorio Jimenez, an alleged ETA member, for questioning about a series of terrorist crimes in Spain before 1982.

US Catholics in contempt

New York (NYT) - The two principal US organizations of the Roman Catholic Church have been held in contempt of court by a federal judge in Manhattan.

Judge Robert Carter ordered the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference to begin paying daily fines of \$50,000 (about £32,000) each from Monday for refusing to turn over documents subpoenaed in a lawsuit over the tax-exempt status of the church.

Tories suffer

Ottawa - The Conservative Government of Alberta, Canada's fourth largest province, was returned to office under its new leader, Mr Don Getty, with a greatly reduced majority, winning 61 of 83 seats in Thursday's general election compared with 75 of 79 seats in 1982. The socialist New Democratic Party advanced from two seats to 16.

Back to jail

Harare - Five weeks after being freed by the Supreme Court from detention for alleged spying, two senior cabinet officials - Mr John Austin and Mr Kenneth Harper - were re-arrested at their homes by Zimbabwe's Intelligence Service.

Dynasty dies

Bonn (Reuters) - The last descendant of the powerful German Krupp industrial dynasty, Arndt von Bohlen und Halbach, died in a Munich clinic aged 48.

Jet victim

Colombo (Reuters) - Hannah Mahmoud, the pregnant wife of a PLO official, died from injuries received in the Colombo airport bombing on Saturday, raising the toll to 16.

Aids appeal

Washington (Reuters) - The actress Elizabeth Taylor, surrounded by scores of photographers, appeared at a US Senate hearing to appeal for more funds to fight Aids.

Cell suicide

Avignon (AFP) - Maurizio Cirielli, aged 31, a suspected Italian Red Brigades terrorist, was found hanged in his cell here shortly before he was to be extradited to face trial in Italy, informed sources said.

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Athens backed over Turkey

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece was assured yesterday of the European Community's full sympathy over its problems with Turkey, which have prompted Athens to resist the resumption of normal relations between the EEC and Ankara.

The assurances were given by M Claude Cheysson, the European Commissioner for Mediterranean policy, to Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister. They were plainly reflected in answers the European official gave later at a news conference.

A Greek government spokesman said Mr Papandreu had laid down two conditions to M Cheysson for ending the freeze imposed on EEC-Turkish relations after the 1980 military coup.

First, Turkey had to rescind legislation discriminating against Greek citizens in Turkey and, secondly, Greece should be exempted, for security reasons, from the Community obligation to open its doors to Turkish workers after December 1 this year.

The spokesman said that unless these conditions were met, Greece would refuse to ratify Turkey's association treaty with the Community. This could create obstacles to the reactivation of Turkey's associate membership and the release of financing to Ankara.

M Cheysson said he saw logic in the Greek arguments. The Turkish decree of 1964 which barred all transactions of property owned by Greek citizens in Turkey was a measure of discrimination incompatible with the provisions of the EEC-Turkey treaty of association of 1963.

The Commissioner, who came to discuss with Greek leaders regional problems affecting the Community, said he would visit Ankara next month - the first Community visit to Turkey at that level since the 1980 freeze - and would urge Turkey to end discrimination against Greeks.

Top men sacked by Unesco

From Diana Geddes Paris

The first session of the executive board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to be held since Britain's withdrawal in December, got off to a stormy start here this week with the dismissal of two senior officials, renewed pressure for the replacement of Mr Amadou Mahtar M'bow, the Director-General, and persistent rumours that Japan was also considering leaving.

In a speech at the opening session of the executive board on Wednesday, Mr M'bow said the withdrawal of the US in 1984, followed by that of Britain and Singapore at the end of last year, had meant a 30 per cent reduction in Unesco's budget.

As a contribution to savings which had to be made, 558 staff posts were to be abolished in addition to the 97 abolished last year.

Only 205 of the posts were filled at the time of the decision, but 19 employees would have to be made compulsorily redundant, Mr M'bow said.

Among those dismissed are Mr Dragoljub Najman, a former Assistant Director-General.

Mr Erwin Solomon, an American, and Unesco director of socio-economic analysis, has also been asked to leave.

Lange attacks Nato and Britain

From Richard Long, Wellington

Nato nations were criticized by the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, last night for their reliance on the nuclear response.

In a vigorous speech which drew cheers from his supporters for the Labour Government's anti-nuclear stance, Mr Lange said: "We believe that the fate of the world should not be the exclusive property of the nuclear powers."

"It is, for instance, outrageous to us that the defence of Western Europe is based on Nato's promise to blow up the world if the Russians attack them with overwhelming conventional force. They have no right to decide the fate of all the rest of us."

Referring to the visit to New Zealand in February of the British defence chief, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, Mr Lange said: "The British sent an admiral out to lecture us this year. Some of the press here seemed to think that they had a right to do that ... We are not a colony."

Mr Lange said there was no point in the New Zealand remaining in the Anzus alliance if the Americans viewed the alliance as the global projection of its nuclear policies.

Mr Lange said the Commission did not have sufficient powers to ban other foodstuffs without the approval of the Council of Ministers. Officials said that in the absence of a common ban, EEC member states were tending to take national measures to prohibit imports, not only from the Soviet bloc, but also from each other. This reflected fears that fellow members might have already bought contaminated products from within the cordons sanitaire, an area within a 625-mile radius of Kiev.

One of the main obstacles to agreement was the Commission's proposal for the measurement of "maximum radiation tolerance levels". The scale is based on the maximum permissible intake of radiation in milk, fruit and vegetables for babies. It sets a limit of 500 becquerels per kilo of milk products and 350 becquerels per kilo of fruit and vegetables. EEC scientific experts met yesterday to revise the scale.

Ariane takes satellite from shuttle

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A Japanese communications satellite due to be launched next year by a US space shuttle will instead be carried into space on board a European Ariane rocket in 1988.

Hughes Communications of Los Angeles said yesterday the launch of the Japanese Communications Satellite Company's first domestic, commercial communications satellite was switched because of the grounding of the shuttle fleet after the Challenger disaster and the subsequent projected year's delay in launching a new shuttle.

"While Hughes strongly supports NASA's space shuttle programme, it was necessary to move our first JCSat launch to Ariane in order to meet our customer schedule needs," the statement said.

Sarney sees Portugal as window to Europe

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The dominant theme during the five-day visit to Portugal by President Sarney of Brazil has been the mutual benefits to be gained from co-operation between the two countries to take advantage of Portugal's recent entry into the EEC.

Both countries want to form part of a Portuguese-speaking community that would include the African countries of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and the islands of Sao Tome and Principe.

At a state dinner in Lisbon's Ajuda Palace, both President Sarney and President Soares of Portugal emphasized the importance of Portugal's presence in the EEC in developing bilateral relations.

President Soares said "EEC membership is not incompatible with Portugal's desire to strengthen its ties with Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries with whom we have old ties." Conditions were ideal for beginning a new phase in relations.

President Sarney said Brazil wanted to establish a relationship that would open a window of understanding and co-operation in Europe.

Portugal and Brazil have been bound by each other's language and history since the 1500s when the Portuguese explorer, Pedro Alvares Cabral, discovered Brazil.

Over the centuries hundreds of thousands of Portuguese have emigrated to Brazil, and many have returned rich.

Seven women named in new Oslo Cabinet

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the new Norwegian Prime Minister, took office yesterday and set what was thought to be a world record by announcing that seven of her 17 Cabinet appointments are to be women.

Her fulfilment of a pledge of sexual equality made last week, after she agreed to form Norway's first minority coalition government in 25 years, caps an extraordinary period in a country not normally noted for the liveliness of its domestic politics.

Mrs Brundtland, the Labour Party leader, has taken office after the first collapse of a Norwegian government outside a general election since the 1920s. Mr Kare Willoch, her Conservative predecessor, resigned last month after Parliament failed to approve an emergency austerity package.

Norway's constitution does not allow for a national election before 1989, and some analysts are convinced that Mrs Brundtland, despite pledges of Conservative support, will be unable to form a

workable consensus for long. But if Mrs Brundtland is deterred by the prospect of political chaos, with the Conservatives bidding their time until 1989 in the role of blameless opposition, she is not about to show it.

She is clearly determined to come out fighting, not only on budget measures, which are likely to include tax increases on higher incomes, but also on foreign policy. It is likely that Norway will now join such nations as Denmark and Greece in vigorous opposition to some Nato policies.

The new Cabinet is: Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland; Foreign Affairs, Knut Frydenlund; Health, Håkon Solberg; Finance, Gunnar Borge; Defence, Johan Joergen Holst; Consumer Affairs, Anne-Lise Bakken; Industry, Finn Kristensen; Justice, Helen Bostad; Religious Affairs and Education, Kirsti Kollie Groendahl; Culture, Hallvard Bakke; Agriculture, Gunnild Oyvang; Environment, Sissel Roenbeck; Oil and Energy, Arne Oelen; Transport, Kjell Borgeen; Social Affairs, Tove Strand Gjerdansen; Development Aid, Vesta Veggem; Fisheries, Birne Moark Edom; Trade, Kurt Monsbak; Labour and Municipalities, Leif Haraldsen.

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SPORTS DIARY Simon Barnes

Cloud Kiwi land

The New Zealand rugby team today play the first unofficial international match of their South African tour...

Hobbit habit

Learn from The 1986 Cricketer's Who's Who that Mike Gatting is an expert on the works of Tolkien...

Years ahead

Britain's first senior sports festival is being held at Harrogate this weekend - a competition for all sports people who fall into what each sport considers the "veteran" class...

Flip

Joggers pound the streets while music pounds their ears from their Walkman personal stereos...

Return volley

Martina Navratilova has been caught trying to sneak a gun on board a plane in the States...

Angled shots

The BBC's coverage of the world snooker championship, which ended this week, was rather peculiar...

BARRY FANTONI



David Butler puts Thursday's votes in a general election perspective



Change is the cry—and any change will do

Thursday's votes proclaimed two conflicting messages. If the whole country voted like West Derbyshire there would be only 92 Conservative MPs in the next parliament...

Either message is disastrous for the Conservatives. However, if they seek comfort, the most they can boast is that they did not actually lose in West Derbyshire or in Wandsworth...

Moreover she has the perverse comfort that Labour is the main beneficiary. The unspoken Tory-Labour compact against third party intruders seems to hold good...

Washington What do you say about a former senior member of the US government who admits that he consciously plotted to mislead the president...

Richmond, Kingston and Sutton was matched in some prosperous areas of Sussex, Hertfordshire and the West Country...

But it was significant that while many voters showed they could discriminate between local situations in order to cast the most effective anti-Conservative vote...

Labour vote 1983 Con Lab All % 34.9 Fulham -10.4 +11.3 +0.3 17.1 Derbyshire W -15.4 +2.7 +12.4 10.3 Ryedale -17.9 -1.9 +15.8

Despite the distraction of the local elections, the voters in West Derbyshire and even more in Ryedale showed that they knew as well as the voters of Fulham how to cast an effective anti-Conservative vote...

party in a hung parliament, with the attendant claim to be asked to provide a minority government.

Certainly Thursday's results add to the chances of a hung parliament. Labour may present statistics that show it with more than the magic 326 seats...

The government counts on a political recovery comparable to that of 1981 to 1983. But it knows that will be much harder to achieve this time...

The Alliance, the party with the most volatile support, must be immensely grateful to the electors of Ryedale for obliterating the conclusions that people were drawing from Fulham...

In our three-party politics only a few per cent stand between riding a landslide and being obliterated by one. The variations of Thursday's vote show that either fate could befall any party.

maintained. The fiscal stimulus would be excessive. The deficit would get out of hand and result in higher inflation...

The central bank overreacted and slammed on the monetary brakes in a way that caused a sudden collapse in the inflation rate between 1980 and 1982...

In the end he is settling scores with the Treasury supply-siders who predicted in advance the failure of his tactics...

Other economists are finding that the Reagan tax cut produced a substantial increase in private saving. Allen Sinai has published his results showing that over the 1981-85 period private saving rose by nearly \$600 billion...

Paul Craig Roberts assesses the damage caused by the Reagan budget aide revelations—to Washington and himself

The whizz kid who ended up in deficit



Stockman: an unfavourable comparison with Judas the budget deficit to higher taxes and lower spending. Disgusted with the triumph of politics...

Stockman's story is neat but disingenuous. In fact he bears a major responsibility for the failure to cut spending. His approach to tax was incompetent and doomed to defeat...

The atmosphere of continual crisis which Stockman created also worked against him. Despite spending cuts and tax increases, the deficit always got bigger...

With the actual results so dramatically at odds with Stockman's predictions, he would seem to have little prospect of a career as an economic seer...

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The author was US Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, 1981-82.

Woodrow Wyatt

Schools: a task for the peers

Last summer a combination of enlightened Tory and Alliance peers did noble work on improving the Trade Union Bill. It was largely due to them that the final Act enshrined secret postal ballots as the norm...

The government's resistance to the changes it now welcomes was inspired by civil servants. They maintained that the evidence of malpractice in union elections was not sufficiently strong to warrant reform...

The persuasive power of civil servants over their ministers should never be underestimated. Now they are at it again. Civil servants in the Department of Education are saying it is neither necessary nor wise to do anything in the Education Bill now going through the Lords...

These peers are particularly concerned about the promotion of partisan political teaching in state schools and want it stopped. The government, advised by senior civil servants, argues that a bill about education implicitly excludes the promotion of partisan politics...

How, then, would it exclude away Auschwitz, an ILEA guide instructing teachers to impress on their pupils the similarity between the Nazi exterminators and the government's so-called anti-trade union legislation...

Lord Harris of Highcross sent a copy to Sir Keith Joseph on February 18. It is not a long document, all its salient points could be absorbed in half an hour. But to date Lord Harris has been told only that he will have a reply when inquiries are complete.

The government seems unconcerned about that dishonestly named subject, peace studies. Teachers are urged by their organizations and some public bodies to seek information overwhelmingly from such groups as CND, the National Peace Council, Teachers for Peace and others which campaign for one-sided nuclear disarmament.

In Peace Studies for Schools, John Marks presents massive evidence of the heavily biased nature of the political propaganda in schools in favour of the CND position. DES officials officials have doubtless put the document under the carpet.

Another amendment in the Lords, backed by Lady Cox and Lord Harris, will concern a requirement on every school to provide courses by police officers on crime prevention and road safety. At present 23 ILEA schools will not allow the police in. Those who rule the ILEA, and who used to rule the GLC, are more interested in attacking the police than co-operating with them.

Other local authorities are following the ILEA lead. The police also talk to children about the dangers of drug abuse. It is sad that this government, supposedly engaged in an anti-drug campaign, is indifferent to the refusal of schools to permit the police to advise pupils how to resist drug pedlars.

Proportional representation for elections to the ILEA and local authorities generally would probably prevent extreme left-wingers within Labour groups, which themselves are elected on a majority vote, carrying on political indoctrination and attacks on the police in schools. But this is not to be, at least for a long time.

Meanwhile political indoctrination by Marxist and CND teachers is flourishing because ministers are not willing to stop it. No one is suggesting there should be no discussion of politics for those old enough to understand it only that children should not be filled with one political view to the exclusion of all others.

I hope that on May 20 every peer concerned about the children now at school and about future generations will rally round those Conservative and Alliance peers who are insisting that the government takes all necessary action.

Henry Stanhope

An easy guide to the EEC

The Common Market was started by those countries which had lost the Second World War, so that their farmers had somewhere to sell their butter and long-life milk. Britain did not join because it had won the war, like the Americans, and anyway did not care for the French, the Germans and the Italians or for that matter the Belgians, the Dutch and the people from that other place.

Thanks to a martial law which was imposed by the United States to keep them in order, the countries which had lost the war soon began to do better than those which had won it. This was obviously unfair, so the prime minister, Harold Macmillan, went to see General de Gaulle, and told him that Britain had decided to let bygones be bygones and join the Common Market after all. But General de Gaulle, who did not like the British because they had won the war and because they could not speak French, said "Non" several times very rudely. This proved that he was a nasty man, a bad loser and thus typically French.

The Labour party was against joining the Common Market anyway because it was full of people who were making a lot of money and didn't like going on strike. But when Harold Wilson, who wore a raincoat and had a photographic memory, became prime minister he forgot this and went to Paris himself saying he wouldn't take No for an answer. So General de Gaulle said "Non" again instead, which made Wilson's colleague, George Brown, very tired and emotional. Then Wilson remembered that he hadn't really wanted to join the Common Market anyway, and everyone decided that Britain would wait for General de Gaulle to die.

General de Gaulle was succeeded by Monsieur de Pompadour, a retired bank manager who kept appearing on television smoking Gauloises. Because he had worked in a bank he didn't care who joined the Common Market so long as they had the money, so when the first British prime minister, Edward Heath, who played the piano and had a funny laugh, went to ask him, he clapped him on the shoulders, sending clouds of garlic and Chateaufort du Pape over him, and wheezed: "Mais oui, certainement mon vieux", or words to that effect. All agreed it was one in the eye for the late General, then they sat back and waited for Britain to grow rich like ever-one else.

Before very long they realized that Britain couldn't, because it had really been tricked by Monsieur de Pompadour into paying a

bigger annual subscription than anyone else, to make up for the fact that its farmers were more efficient than those in France. Moreover, under Common Market rules, the British were required to eat French Golden Delicious apples instead of Cox's Orange Pippins.

When Margaret Thatcher became prime minister she said she had had enough of this. So they called her the Iron Lady and had a big row outside Paris, before the French gave her some money back and promised that they would all start eating English lamb - because they had to under Common Market rules. This proved that Mrs Thatcher was even nastier than General de Gaulle, a still worse loser and thus typically British.

The French, the Germans and the Italians, not to mention the Dutch, the Belgians and the people from that other place, now brought they had shot Mrs Thatcher up and could no start dealing with the Danes, the Irish, the Spanish and the Portuguese, not to mention the Greeks whom they disliked even more than the British. But when Mrs Thatcher heard of this she said "the lady's not for turning" and anyway, she wanted to start talking about CAP - which had something to do with rates.

The trouble with CAP was that the French farmers, to show they were not really as inefficient as everyone said, had been producing more food than everyone else could possibly eat.

They couldn't give it all away to people who were starving in Africa because it would make them fat and be very bad for them - so they had to store all the surplus butter inside a mountain in Brussels called the Bcurre-le-Mont.

The mountain had a lake at the foot of it, into which they poured all the wine that was left over - because people couldn't afford to drink it, and a tower block called the Chariemagne in which they were storing grain.

But the rates on all these were so enormous that Mrs Thatcher said they would have to start CAPping them, or she would have another row when she was president. She also wanted British Airways to take over all the routes in Europe, which would mean that everyone would have to take out British life insurance, and said that the trouble with the Common Market was that it wasn't nearly common enough.

This was exactly what the Labour party had objected to in the first place - which explains why everyone agreed in 1986 that it was no longer an issue in British politics.



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ELECTORAL WARNING

The morning after the election-night before is rarely a time when much heat is generated among political combatants - or much light shed on the political scenery. Despite the very best endeavours of the broadcasters the nation's leaders and would-be leaders find it hard to raise their tired minds above the responses they have all used so often. Mr Steel knows what Mr Tebbit is going to say about the Government's nasty defeat at Ryedale. Mr Tebbit knows exactly what Mr Steel is going to say.

If Labour's Mr John Cunningham were to faint under the studio lights the Conservatives' Mr Kenneth Baker could deliver his lines with no less aplomb - and, given the common courtesies among fellow parliamentarians, he might easily be tempted to do so.

Thus the response by Mr Tebbit that the Conservatives had so often regained at general elections the seats that it had spectacularly lost in mid-term will have surprised no one. The viewer is enjoined to remember poor Mrs Shirley Williams from Crosby, the tragic Mr Tope from Sutton. Where are they now, the Mrs Shields of yesterday? Not that the argument is any less sound for being familiar. Nor is there anything wrong with Mr Tebbit's long list of government achievements in controlling inflation, the trade unions and in rolling back the frontiers of state power.

Today, however, is the morning after the election night before. The complex pattern of local election results, the campaign reports, the market research on the party political broadcasts; they are all piling up on party bureaucrats' desks. For the sake of Mrs Thatcher's government - and of future such governments - it is of critical importance that the closed minds of the broadcasting studios open up to allow in some light.

Taken together, the loss of Ryedale, the near loss of West Derbyshire and the scale of election reverses throughout the country are a grave political challenge to the Government. A very large number of anti-Tory verdicts have been cast. The common denominator of virtually all the voting has been a willingness to vote for the opposition party with the best chance. The Conservatives now face two enemies each of which is capable of damaging them in different sorts of seat. The Alliance, it seems, cannot win inner cities and industrial areas to any significant extent, but Labour (refreshed and smartened by Mr Kinnock's agreeable manner) now once again can. Labour on the other hand could never come near threatening the Conservatives in the better-off suburbs or the rural and county areas of South or even North.

The danger of the Tories losing their overall majority at the next general election may still, of course, not be very great. Another truism of the broadcasting studios is that, during a general election campaign in which the Government can probe and expose its opponents' policies things are likely to look significantly different from the way they do now. Moreover, Labour is not

likely to achieve an overall majority even on its current showing.

But that is not the be-all-and-end-all. What the Labour advance and the Alliance squeeze together indicate is that Labour could well become the largest single party, become, indeed, the party of government and then (as in 1966 after 1964) go on to establish itself securely in power.

What then, are the possible explanations for the anti-Tory reaction at the polls and can it be reversed? One answer to the first question is that the voting public, which gave Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues full credit in 1983 for their success in dealing with the crucial problems of the time, is not persuaded that they are adapting themselves to deal with the different questions that now dominate the political concerns of the nation. Mr Tebbit's list of successes is admired. But it is also taken for granted. And it does not necessarily prove to voters that a new list can be compiled.

What then should the Government do? The answer is certainly not to reverse its anti-inflation policies and to go into competition with the Opposition parties' spending promises. When governments steal their opponents' clothes, the public concludes that if it is going to have opposition policies reluctantly imposed, it might as well have them put into practice by those who genuinely believe in them.

The true answer is much more complex. Any look at the local government elections shows inevitable reflections of local priorities, as well as attitudes to the national political parties. To talk therefore about a single message from Tamworth or Tayside (both areas where the Conservatives lost heavily) is wrong. But the local concerns do have a pattern. They point, for example, to the centrality of education as a concern of voters. The pattern has to do with civic expenditure and, perhaps behind that, with voters' confidence in the management and maintenance of basic public services. There is a sense in which local Conservatives have been found untrustworthy in their management of those services. This shows through particularly in the most affluent areas of the nation. In the south west London suburbs the great issue determining votes was schooling. The Alliance won votes on a promise not just to spend more but to "care". This connection between the Conservatives' alleged "parsimony" and shabby, inadequate services was evidently a factor elsewhere.

Meanwhile in the cities, Labour gained. It was perceived as the party that would maintain high levels of public provision. That sentiment secured the return of Labour administrations in Haringey and Lambeth, outweighing what were genuine misgivings among traditional Labour supporters about such Labour leaders as Ted Knight and Bernie Grant.

And yet in Wandsworth a Conservative council, committed four-square to rates reductions and privatization of public service, was returned to power. A plausible

explanation is that voters in the main do not care much for the municipal unions or council jobs as such; they do care for the efficient emptying of bins. Perhaps Wandsworth's politicians were able to make convincing distinctions between public services where there was room for economy and those, such as education, where levels of expenditure deserved to be maintained.

Is there a message here? There might be. The Government has been attempting since last Autumn to put across the fact that for many years its rhetoric has been tougher than its real-life behaviour. It has piled statistic upon statistic, speech upon speech to prove its high and "caring" levels of public expenditure, but it has not succeeded. Such success as it was beginning to achieve was swept away in the welter of administrative and political failures surrounding the Westland affair, the BL debacle, the Sunday shopping fiasco and too many others.

That does not mean that the tactic was a mistake. It simply shows that it was difficult. And the more embattled the Government became, the greater the risk that changes towards a more truthful presentation of its public spending record would embolden the Cabinet's big spenders to demand still bigger slices of tax-payers' cash. That risk still looks very grave.

The job needs to be begun again. Mrs Thatcher is not going to change the nature of her appeal. She is tough in a crisis, unbending, the tamer of price rises and trade union rioters. Others must take the strain of presenting the policies where Mrs Thatcher's personality is ill-suited to the message. Neither in health nor in education has this been achieved.

The task of exploiting the Prime Minister's strengths and supporting her weaknesses can be given only to someone in whom she has complete confidence. Mr Tebbit was meant to be that man. The removal from the chairman's office of the loyal but lightly-armed Mr John Gummer was the signal for the new beginning. But that beginning is still awaited. Mr Tebbit has proved himself the first rate street tactician and the rather less than first rate political philosopher that his friends always knew he was. But the difficult strategic work shows no signs of being done. Moreover, the party organisation - particularly at Ryedale - was not such as to inspire great confidence. The Labour party's organisation, shown not least this week by its party political broadcast - has improved slightly.

All criticism of Mr Tebbit tends to come from sources that are well known for being hostile to Mr Tebbit, Mrs Thatcher and the entire thrust of past government policy. That is why so little notice is taken of it. To criticise the party chairman, to call for a better deal for education, to ask that some of the doubts in the suburbs be listened to, is to brand oneself as an unfriendly critic. That is not a charge to which *The Times*, a friendly critic of the Government, feels vulnerable. Thursday's elections should give pause for great thought from the Prime Minister and her party.

FOURTH LEADER

Summer has come to China - and that is official. Or rather, it has come to some of China, some of the time - and that is official too.

Last weekend, China added daylight saving to the many questionable benefits it has borrowed from the outside world. Summertime, Chinese-style, began at 0200 Peking time last Sunday, and the Chinese who - it should be remembered - have no experience of changing their clocks, were advised that they could, if they liked, alter their timepieces the previous evening.

A great many Chinese did not like. They included the directors of the country's rail, bus and river transport who rejected the whole idea. Long-distance trains are now running one hour late (when they are on time). So are the buses. Flights, on the other hand, are operating in summer time. Taking the train to catch the plane is not such a good idea in China just now. It adds to the strain.

Still confused? Try listening to the radio to check the time. You will hear the time given in Peking summer time even if

you are many hours' flight away from the capital. (Almost the whole country runs on Peking time, though it spans the equivalent of three US time zones.)

Should you mistakenly tune into Peking radio's service for Taiwan, however, you will be behind the times again. The published schedule now applies one hour in arrears. Mainland listeners will, as the radio helpfully says, have to add one hour to the programme listings to receive the scheduled programme. This ambiguity is likely to persist. Peking's adoption of daylight saving makes it that much less likely that Taiwan will follow suit.

There was something of the same tardiness about the decision to start saving daylight in the first place. Peking announced in mid-April that summertime was being postponed until the first weekend in May, because otherwise there would be no time to make the change public. Next year, summer in China will start a month earlier (unless it is decided to turn the calendars on instead).

Not that the inhabitants of the land of Greenwich Mean Time have much to boast about. This year the time-honoured (that is more than 70 year old, with periodic breaks) institution of British Summer Time was scheduled to begin, variously, on March 16, 23 or 30 according to which diary you chose to believe - and all because of a late decision that summer British-style should be synchronized with the usually superior summer enjoyed by our European neighbours. It had the added benefit, for the French, of leaving Paris with its 60-minute start on London.

Not that we need have noticed until a good 48 hours after the change. Easter and the ensuing bank holiday intervened to postpone the reality of a lost hour's sleep. Some clocks, as usual, remained unadvanced for days.

In this, as in much else, Britain has much in common with China where - and this is official - the business of advancing the clocks in public places is the responsibility of "someone authorized by the departments concerned".

Labour cure for poor schools

From Mr Peter Heath
Sir, It is typical of the Labour Party that its remedy for poor schools should be to close the good ones. (See Mr Giles Radice's remarks in Ryedale yesterday.) Mr Kinnock has long been associated with this policy of bitter envy and distorted prejudice and those who vote for this party should recognize that they are voting for a national closed shop in education where we would all be at the mercy of political "advisers" (such as there were in Humberstone not many years ago) and the reckless arrogance and greed of the NUT.

At the moment many parents, like myself, who would happily send their children to State schools reluctantly spend money, which they cannot easily afford, to send them instead to schools where mental and social discipline are acknowledged as fundamental to personal development and where the example of teachers assists and does not impede this process.

Whether one opts for State education or private depends often upon where one lives and may even vary with the particular child - there are not a few parents who have children at both State and private schools. And while we may benefit from the charitable status of private schools, it should be remembered that we continue to finance, through our rates and taxes, the State schools upon which we make reduced or no demands. The problem is not quite so simple as politicians.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HEATH,
10 Carrington Avenue,
Cottingham, North Humberstone,
May 2.

Paper chase

From Mr R. F. Jones
Sir, When I moved from my last house to the new occupant was plagued with the usual readdressing of my mail.

I telephoned one particularly persistent mailing company, after digging through the waste paper basket to retrieve their envelope, in order to quote the mailing code. I was informed that, as it was a house code, my name would be deleted instantly from their list.

Today I received the following, forwarded from my old address:
As we have numerous lists, it would be a great deal if you could forward to us the label on the envelope you have recently received. If, in fact, you have now discarded this, perhaps you would forward the next one you receive.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. JONES,
58 West Kensington Mansions,
Beaumont Crescent, W14,
April 23.

Happy days

From Mr H. R. Bullen
Sir, Your leader of today ("Is everybody happy?", May 5) Mauritian could beat the Egyptians in public holidays. When I was Rector of the Royal College there we used to "enjoy" more than 30 public holidays annually, as the minimum had to be multiplied by five in order to satisfy Hindus, Muslims, Chinese, Creoles and Europeans.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BULLEN,
Chapel Cottage,
Bromyard,
Clyro, Hereford.

How long, O Lord?

From Mr Bernard Cobb
Sir, We are indebted to Mr John Stonestreet (May 5) for his invaluable advice regarding the mileage he can get from the final "Amen" of the *Messiah*. Indeed, it is only in *The Times* that one is likely to find such essential information so well expressed.

I am thus encouraged to raise a reverse problem of tempo. For some time I have enjoyed listening to Brahms's second piano concerto on my return to Bookham from visiting a client in Basingstoke. However, due to improved roads in general and the M25 in particular, I am now obliged to listen to the final seven minutes of the last movement in my driveway. This invites occasional criticism from others quite close to me and I wonder if anyone can recommend a 43 minute recording of this piece.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD COBB,
89 Eastwick Park Avenue,
Great Bookham, Surrey,
May 6.

Finding home for the observatory

From the Chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council
Sir, The Royal Greenwich Observatory has had a distinguished history and for the last 38 years of its 311-year life has been situated at Herstmonceux Castle, in Sussex. At the present time, however, unlike the earlier days of RGO, it cannot perform front-line optical astronomical observing directly from the United Kingdom. The telescopes now are on remote mountain sites.

There are, or shortly will be, four optical telescopes, including the new world-class 4.2 metre William Herschel telescope, on La Palma in the Canary Islands, probably the best site in the northern hemisphere.

The prospects for UK optical astronomers have never been better. Furthermore, infra-red and millimetre radio-wave telescopes are sited on Hawaii giving, with the radio-telescopes in the UK, a range of ground-based facilities second to none.

In all these circumstances the council has concluded that astronomy in UK universities will best be served by relocating the observatory on, or adjacent to, a university campus, from which the RGO could derive complementary benefits for its future role.

The RGO has to operate, maintain and develop the optical telescopes and their instruments. This requires not only participation in the observational programmes but also continuing R & D (research and development), at the forefront of what is possible in a wide range of applied physics and engineering techniques to ensure that the instruments continue to lead the world.

The chosen campus, therefore, should have strengths in astronomy, physics, control and electronic engineering, computing and micro-electronics to provide a reservoir of activity covering as many of the RGO's tasks as possible.

The council has discussed extensively eight possible sites (including Sussex, of whose astronomy centre Sir William McCrea was a founding and distinguished member) and three have been selected for further study. These are the universities of

Old and forgotten

From Mr J. W. K. Tarling
Sir, The suggestion by Age Concern that the Church of England is losing touch with the interests of older people (report, April 29) is well founded and this is probably due to the existence of the welfare state.

Happily, the staff of the four churches with which I am associated have good records in caring concern for elderly folk; but this concern is seldom manifest in the laity. All too often the reaction to information concerning the problems and difficulties of elderly folk is, "tell the welfare people" rather than offering personal help.

I have frequently encountered this attitude in many different

DIY conveyance

From Mr Richard H. Tyler
Sir, I perceive from your property article on DIY conveyancing (April 23) that it is once again open season for solicitors. I would like to correct some wrong impressions to which the article may have given rise.

Firstly, the two per cent of purchase price quoted by the Consumers Association as the fee charged by solicitors for a purchase seems to be confused with estate agent's charges on a sale which range from 1% to 2% per cent. Solicitors' conveyancing charges in this area have for some time ranged from half to one per cent. These charges are controlled ultimately by the Law Society.

Secondly, I would challenge the association's statement that "DIY conveyancing is straightforward where the house is occupied by an owner-occupier and the title to it registered with title absolute".

incidents can be learned quickly by new entrants to these fields. It is therefore particularly relevant to the work of local authorities and national bodies responsible for protection of our heritage who need rapid access to cost-effective, anti-fire technologies.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SMITH, Director,
Fire and Materials Centre,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
101 Marshgate Lane, E15.

Nation shall speak...

From Mr G. W. M. Kremer
Sir, I suppose one should be grateful in a way to Secretary of State Shultz for confirming that the worlds of American foreign policy and of the "B" movie have finally coalesced. His comment to Colonel Gadafi, reported in *The Times* of May 6, "You've had it, pal", continues the style set by the former President Nixon. "I am not a crook", and opens speculation about likely contexts for other Hollywood obiter dicta.

"Come up and see me some time", "Play it again, Sam", and "Time wounds all heels" may seem fairly innocuous in an international context. However, when "You dirty rat" and "Make my day" enter the register of diplomatic exchanges we should do well to be alarmed.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. M. KREMER,
26 Pridesaux Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Heritage fire risk

From Professor Derek Smith
Sir, The director of the World Fire Statistics Centre (April 30) makes a powerful case for better statistics whereby to assess the relative cost-effectiveness of technical devices such as automatic sprinkler systems.

I fully agree, but I go further in asserting that the time is ripe for reassessing the efficacy of all new technologies which can contribute to fire prevention. These include sprinklers, smoke detectors, improved materials and methods of building construction, and building design, including application of computerised fire-modelling techniques at the design stage.

With the collaboration and support of the European Commission, this centre is holding a European conference entitled "New technology to reduce fire losses and costs", this will take place in the Commission's Jean Monnet building in Luxembourg on October 2/3.

The conference papers will deal more with the principles of the new technologies rather than with technical details, and they are intended for architects and designers, materials users and suppliers, fire brigades and insurance companies, as well as the fire-research community.

The conference will also summarise progress being made in assembling national data-bases relevant to fire prevention and fire fighting so that lessons from past

investigation of title is only a portion of the work involved. Co-ordination of the transaction with others is a major part of what the solicitor does.

The book to which the article refers, *The Legal Side to Buying a House*, costs £6.95. High Court costs for litigation over conveyancing which has gone wrong through lack of expertise on the part of a DIY conveyancer could cost thousands of pounds.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD H. TYLER,
Atterdell Smith & Tyler
(Solicitors),
20 West Street,
Reigate, Surrey,
April 24.

Half a lifetime

From Mr J. P. S. Daniell
Sir, Mr John Denton (May 5) should take comfort from the example of the late Sir Winston Churchill, who became Prime Minister at 65.

This was an appointment he had not previously held, but he reached near enough to Perfection for our needs at the time. Yours faithfully,
PAUL DANIELL,
Saddlers,
Blandford, Dorset.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 10 1919
The *Turritella* had been captured by the German raider *Wolf* and a prize crew put on board. The *Aden* Patrol vessel was *HMS Odis*, commanded by Lt-Cdr Pugh. Our Correspondent was Paymaster Lt-Cdr Cyril Fox.

ON A RAIDER'S TRAIL

(From a Naval Correspondent.)
At the beginning of March, 1917, I was in *HMS Odis* - on the *Aden* Patrol - a dull job, as all patrolling jobs are. But we did not pretend to be pining for the more thrilling occupation of searching for the German raider *Wolf*. Her gun could out-range the guns of our little ship so effectively that had we met her we should probably have been blown out of the sea before we could put a shot anywhere near her, and, frankly, we had no great desire to meet her.

About 10 o'clock one evening a signalman appeared at the wardroom door with a message from the bridge: "From the officer of the watch, sir. Ship on the starboard bow showing no lights."

"Probably an old tramp scared out of his wits by these yachts about the *Wolf*," suggested someone. "We had been ambushed along coastguard at night, know, and our order was given to increase to 10. The shutter of our signal lamp began to rattle."

"What ship is that?"
The signalman had to repeat the question twice before he evoked an answer. "What is your name?" asked the patient signalman. This time the mysterious stranger expanded volubly.

"*Turritella*, London. Runs for British Admiralty. Port Said for orders..."
The signal lamp of the unknown vessel began to scintillate again. "Who are you?" ran the simple message.

There was certainly a directness about the question suggesting a bluff old English seaman. "A British man-of-war," was our answer. A little later we followed it up by a peremptory order to the stranger to stop. When the signal lamp began to flicker again, it seemed to show just a trifle of hesitation.

"Why did you not stop me when I was passing *Aden*?" Meadows, Master.
His meaning was plain enough. We could have ordered him to stop when we first sighted him. He was within range of the shore batteries, and when there were British men-of-war lying just round the corner inside the harbour. He evidently suspected us of being the German raider.

The officer just relieved from the bridge became meditative. "There was something funny," he said. "Even about the last signal making me stop. We did not stop him at *Aden*. The signalman tells me that he first sighted *Aden* with a 'W' and then corrected it."

"Number One, tell them to stand by the searchlight," said the captain to the first lieutenant. "Signalman, tell him to place his navigation lights."

Very promptly in response to the signal the lights appeared upon the stranger's ship.
"New make, remain where you are. I will board you at daylight."

When the distance between the ships had been reduced to about a mile the order was given to switch on the searchlight. The great white streak shot across the sea until it settled on the mysterious craft. In large letters across her stern ran the legend "*Turritella*, London..."

Dimly we could discern two boats, one on the port and one on the starboard side of the hull, crowded with occupants, who were jabbering in some strange tongue like a lot of excited monkeys.

Just as we came abreast of the stranger ship we saw a cloud of smoke shoot up from her, which was followed by the heavy thud of an explosion. Next moment there came another heavy thud, and we saw that the *Turritella* was beginning to sink by the beam. And then we saw a third boat rowing away from the wreck in the direction of the other two. We swung round to return and pick them up...

As we approached the first two boats we realized why we had failed to understand the language. They were full of Chittanians all talking in one of the states of hysterical agitation. We waited eagerly for the third boat. As it drew up alongside our gangway two officers stepped briskly up the ladder, and were followed by 26 men, each wearing a round blue cap with two black ribbons falling down behind. Across the front of the cap ribbons was printed in gold letters "Kaiserliche Marine." We had not been fooled after all...

THE ARTS

Television

A few years ago a bland pop song by Buggles called "Video Killed the Radio Star" was hoisted into the charts on the back of a showy, state-of-the-art promo video. Like many media obituaries, the title and the memorably vacuous lyric "We can't rewind, we've gone too far" encapsulated a wish rather than a fact. Pop videos actually stimulate record sales, which in turn boost the appeal of pop radio: the new medium has not supplanted the old, but supplemented it.

Any lethal tendencies video may have lie in another direction. As Julien Temple and others observed, in the course of the encyclopaedic television *Video Jukebox* (BBC1), successful examples of the form work by hammering home a definitive set of images which are designed to colonize the viewer's imagination, and in some ways to nullify it. When squeezed through the lens of a computer-enhanced, traditional film techniques of special effects and rapid cutting produce the nearest equivalent to the dream that any medium has achieved. And, whether or not video makes pop less interesting, it is here to stay.

Introduced by the veteran radio DJ John Peel and his producer John Walters, this programme's historically organized format was elastic enough to include some rare pre-video gems and some desperately untreacherous interviews with luminary artists (many falling over themselves to be blasé as well obvious "classics" such as "Vienna" and "Bohemian Rhapsody"). But however technically sophisticated and densely constructed, most pop videos are simply too boring to encourage a third or fourth viewing - although one suspects that last night's extravaganza may well have found its way into a few million VCRs.

It is to be hoped that the video boys never get their hands on Mr Cutler, the sometime primary school teacher and lifelong eccentric profiled in *South of Watford* (LWT). On radio and record, free of the national health specs and tea cosy hat of his public persona, Mr Cutler's deadpan minimalism spreads the tiny, iridescent wings of ephemera. But now that he has found a new, young audience, even his might be at risk.

Martin Cropper

Tim Rice's new musical *Chess* opens next week in a blaze of publicity. Nicholas Shakespeare meets the man behind many stage successes

Knight of the matey fable

Everything is peppermint-green in Tim Rice's office off Shaftesbury Avenue. The piano, the radiator, the walls. When he puts on a green jersey, he suddenly becomes invisible. Only by seeking the source of a creamy, after-dinner voice does one locate the smiling face once likened to that of a relaxed Anthony Burgess - the face that could go down in history as responsible for the break-up of Abba.

Against one green wall lean posters for the Moleworth books now reprinted by Rice's company, Pavilion Books. "Are you an Eric or a Nigel?" asks one. "How to be top in all subjects" promises another. "How to be a goody-goody".

Rice admits that the sagas of Moleworth, the dishevelled but worldly urchin, had more influence on him than most books. "His philosophy is way ahead of Kant or Russell. 'Keep a straight bat in cricket as in life', he quotes, referring to his favourite pastime. On the opposite wall hang what he might like to regard as the fruits of this philosophy: gold and platinum discs of songs written by him and sung mostly by Elaine Paige, songs with titles like "Love Hurts".

Yet it is less Moleworth than his weedy enemy Fotherington Thomas whom one associates with the smiling face and the thinning fair hair, fluffed up at the back in curls. "I was really quite unrepentant at Lancing - which in itself is quite original", he adds hopefully. A contemporary there of Christopher Hampton, David Hare and Nigel Andrews, Rice remembers with most affection a clarinetist who went to Belgium and was never heard of again.

Music is more important to Rice even than cricket, though he has three cricket books out this week. He also publishes - and writes - books like *British Hit Singles 3* and *Hits of the Sixties* which makes him a mine of arcane information. "Did you know that one of the guys who wrote 'Rock Around the Clock' was born in 1893? Extraordinary how the composer of that song should be a man of the 19th century." These books, full of similarly useless but succulent scraps, tend to be best-sellers, just like his songs.

It was in listening to his parents' records of shows he had never seen that Rice became interested in words and music. "All my excitement at shows like *My Fair Lady* came off their records. I remember then seeing some of the shows and feeling how strange they were, not at all like I imagined. Even today I never feel a sense of theatre." This could explain why he has not seen Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express*, nor his former partner's musical *Cats*. "At least not the whole thing from start to finish", he says, tapping his feet. "There was a traffic snarl-up."

The 10-year partnership, which had begun with an unperformed musical on Dr Barnardo, ended in 1976 with *Evita*. For a time Rice without Lloyd Webber was like Bill Haley without his kiss-curl. His medieval musical, *Blondel*, soon slipped from sight, leaving its author to disc-jockey for attention on television.



Silver and goldsmith: Tim Rice among his recording trophies

interested in the game. "I am fascinated by the people in it", he says, picking up a pair of sun-glasses.

Thinking what a good idea it seemed for "a play, a book or something", Rice wrote a four-page synopsis and began looking for a partner. Lloyd Webber? "He was probably doing *Cats* at the time", he replies, tapping his feet. Hearing that the two bearded members of the Swedish pop-group Abba wanted to write a musical, Rice went to Stockholm. They so loved the idea they disbanded the group for it.

The lead female in *Chess* will be Elaine Paige of the platinum discs, *Evita*, *Starlight Express* and *Abba-cadabra* (with Abba's very own Bjorn and Benny). Did Rice write the part with her in mind? "Yes, I did probably", he says, but he never took it for granted. Bjorn and Benny would agree. "The same people crop up because they're good, and you only want to work with the best", he explains valiantly. One of these was the director, Michael Bennett, who quite unexpectedly withdrew on account of ill-health. Flying back to America, Bennett surfaced in the

press with garish accounts, not of his own health but that of the musical. "I have been assured by our American producers that he is ill", says Rice patiently, his feet now in unison with his sun-glasses. "But I was really quite surprised when I read he didn't like the script and had problems with Elaine." Fortunately *Starlight Express* was delayed on Broadway, which meant the availability of Rice's original choice, Trevor Nunn.

Rice goes on about how good his Abba colleagues are. Can he conceive of them responding to another of his ideas? "They're very good", he answers, without irony. "If I have a wonderful idea I'll take it to Bjorn and Benny and if they think it's rubbish I might try it on Andrew, but I have no plans for another musical. I've been to write something solo, a book or a play, I've no idea if I can do it."

Currently on his short-list is a project called "Evita Two". "It's the story of what happens to *Evita*'s body, even though she's a corpse, and how Peron tries to make Isabelita into another *Evita* - someone who doesn't have any character at all."

Dance

Revival misses its guiding star

Le Baiser de la fee Covent Garden

Kenneth MacMillan dedicated last night's gala at Covent Garden to the memory of Barry Kay, who designed one of the three waltzes given and seven other ballets for MacMillan. Concurring in the sense of loss at his premature death, some of us mentally added a tribute to another artist whose memory hovered almost palpably over the programme.

Lynn Seymour was MacMillan's muse, the inspiration of all three ballets given, and to read in her footsteps is not easy. Lesley Collier had that ingrained task in *Concerto* and *Anastasia*. In the plotless ballet to Shostakovich music, her line and musicality enable her to create her own effect, less rounded, less resonant than Seymour's, but still vibrant and clear.

Would that I could say as much for an otherwise substantial cast in a work that, except in the cool, serene slow movement, needs all the help it can get from its dancers.

Playing Anna Anderson, the woman who thought herself *Anastasia*, is another matter. The prelate revival is of the original one act version created at the West Berlin Opera House in 1967, or as near as you can get to it on a stage with no revolve. It gains a lot from being short of the two-act prologue, both trivial and misleading, which MacMillan added for the 1971 Covent Garden production.

Collier acts the central role (none of the others amount to much, although David Drew lends effectively burly support as her husband) with serious care, clarity and emphasis. What she does not have, what nobody in the Royal Ballet has today, is Seymour's ability to make a role look larger than life, and without that I am not sure the ballet is worth reviving.

In the new production of *Le Baiser de la Fee*, you can glimpse something of Seymour's quality in the dances

for the finale, just as the gifts of another exceptional ballerina, Svetlana Beriosova, lie half hidden in the role of the fairy.

Although this is billed as a completely new version, MacMillan has sensibly built on his earlier attempt of the ballet, and most of the best parts look familiar.

I cannot understand why the earlier version was unsuccessful. It had only 24 performances between 1960 and 1965, yet it was blessed with superb performances and one of the most beautiful decors ever created for the Royal Ballet, a set of marvellous abstract landscapes by Kenneth Rowell.

The prosaic new settings by Martin Sutherland do not even begin to compare, although they do fit better with MacMillan's curious decision to change his conception from that of a pure classic ballet (so right for the music) by adding musical comedy scenes of knockabout village revelry, played with embarrassingly crude gusto by several of the older dancers.

Surprisingly, MacMillan has not taken the opportunity to remedy the earlier version's biggest weakness, that of having the gypsy and the fairy played by different dancers.

Among the new cast, for those who did not see Beriosova's icy majesty and Seymour's melting warmth, Fiona Chadwick and Maria Almeida present the roles ably and sincerely, although I could not rid myself of a thought that they could do better still if they swapped parts.

Jonathan Cope as the young man for whose love they struggle comes off best: handsome, romantic and dashing, strong in dancing, partnering and personality.

Ashley Lawrence conducts Stravinsky's most luscious ballet score with affectionate care and lavishes equal attention on Shostakovich's bright melodies and the impassioned *Fantaisie Symphonique* of Martini for the other ballets.

John Percival

Theatre

The baptismal night's dream

The Two Noble Kinsmen Swan, Stratford on Avon

Since Stratford became imprisoned on the Bardic treadmill one has frequently felt like cursing the name of Shakespeare for monopolizing the company's classical repertory to the exclusion of all his contemporaries.

This deadlock has now been resolved by the unknown benefactor who famously waved a wand over the scene and conjured up a dream house for everything except the latest recycling of *Twelfth Night*.

In its physical properties, too, Michael Reardon's theatre is the answer to a dream. You arrive through the entrance to the old RSC gallery, still exuberantly Victorian, and then pass into the auditorium where a Jacobean promontory stage combines with the building's original non-conformist chapel character.

Stage and lofty surrounding galleries are of unpainted timber, at once austere, sympathetic, and acoustically clear as a bell.

The last factor is crucial. In a 400-seat house there may be no temptation for casts to

parade about; but what kind of stylistic compromise can be made on a fore stage that comes within inches of the front stalls while looking like a landing-strip from the top gallery? In practice, this problem simply vanishes as speech can safely drop to the level of studio performance. All gallery spectators may miss its eye contact.

For a baptismal production opening the door on the Jacobean treasure house, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is an eccentric choice. Listed in the Shakespeare Apocrypha and hopefully ascribed to a long string of alternative pretenders, all you can safely say is that it was written by someone who, if not Shakespeare himself, had certainly done his Shakespearean homework.

The verse is as syntactically knotty as that of the last plays, and the piece offers a kaleidoscope of Bardic memories - so that Holofernes seems to be coming on with the Mechanicals, and Macbeth's doctor wandering into Ophelia's mad scene.

The plot is taken from Chaucer's tale of Palamon and Arcite, the devoted Theban cousins who turn to deadly rivals for love of Theseus' sister Emilia. In Chaucer's hands it is a heart-felt expression of chivalric romance. By the time our Jacobean author



The noble touch: Peter Guinness (front) and Robert Morgan

tackled it, something peculiar had happened to the notion of chivalry, and perfect gentle knights are no longer to be found.

Barry Kyle, in a stroke that simultaneously fits the play and the space, presents it as a modified piece of Kabuki: bringing on Theseus and Hippolyta as a pair of scarlet-costumed war lords, and playing the battle and duel scenes in Samurai armour.

The Japanese convention is treated flexibly, but it recurs at every level from the Bunraku manipulation of the altars to the morris dance where a giant phallus emits an avalanche of white silk.

Performances are in the same key. Peter Guinness's top-knotted Theseus asserts dual authority with the grimacing aggressiveness of a shogun, accompanied by an Amazonian consort (Anna Nygh) in the likeness of Turandot. The boldest decision, however, is to abandon

the traditional moral equality of the two lovers and follow the text in presenting Palamon and Arcite as violently contrasting figures.

Hugh Quarshie's Arcite is a magnanimous strong-nerved realist. Gerard Murphy's Palamon begins as his follower, and then erupts into feverish ranting jealousy once they have both observed Emilia (Amanda Harris) from the prison window.

The main dramatic surprise, though, comes from Imogen Stubbs as the gaoler's daughter who runs mad with love for Palamon. As written, the part is soaked in the clichés of Ophelia which Miss Stubbs neutralizes by mischievous, spectacularly athletic playing. It is a real pleasure - after so many impending drownings, and snatches of crazed nursery rhyme - to witness her recovery thanks to a timely piece of sexual therapy.

Irving Wardle

Radio

Real-life dramas behind the scenes

A few short and factual paragraphs tucked away on page 3 of this paper Friday, May 2, may not have made it clear that the major radio drama of the last couple of weeks has had little to do with plays.

With a suddenness, not to say brutality, apparently uncharacteristic of dear old Auntie, (though maybe a change of character is in the making), the Board of Governors summarily ejected not only Richard Francis from his post as Managing Director, Radio, but Charles McLelland from his chair as deputy.

Inquiries as to why this happened, why now and why so abruptly have been met with very guarded answers, though no doubt the fragments will gradually work their way to the surface from which a true history can be written. In the meantime, at least as far as Mr Francis is concerned, it appears to be common knowledge that he is the only representative of

radio on the Board of Management, had become a more and more isolated figure in a group of television colleagues all equally assured of a natural inferiority of radio.

To this unpromising environment my guess is that the Francis view of the expanding future of sound broadcasting, which had included a committed advocacy of Langham as a new broadcasting centre and technological wonder, increasingly failed to find sympathy. Why should a successor fare any better? Well, that successor is to be Brian Wenham, presently Director of Programmes for BBC Television and therefore well aware of the attitudes he will have to cope with: indeed until now he has very likely shared some of them himself. But he is said to be an ambitious and able man who will be on his mettle to do well. But there is another reason to anticipate that radio will come out of its isolation: Mr Wenham will no longer be

its only senior spokesman, for David Hatch (currently Controller of Radio 4) has been appointed Director of Programmes. Radio - a job previously concealed somewhere in Mr McLelland's brief - and for the first time that position brings with it a seat on the Board of Management. Since it also brings with it Mr Hatch in person, my expectation is that between them one ex-TV mogul and the most resourceful, energetic, innovative and plain-spoken chief that Radio 4 has ever had will make it hard for even the most dedicated high priest of Wood

Lane to insist on the natural inferiority of sound. But who will take over Radio 4? No one I have spoken to was willing to name a runner, let alone back one. The outgoing incumbent has given us a very hard act to follow, so one criterion for his successor is that he be able to follow it. Certainly if the governors can do as well with this appointment as I believe them to have done with that of John Tusa to External Services, we shall all be able to sleep easy by our bedside trannies.

David Wade

Advertisement for THE SUNDAY TIMES magazine. It features the headline 'MY LIFE WITH SAKHAROV' and 'BY HIS WIFE'. Below the headline are two black and white portraits of men. At the bottom, there is a list of featured articles: 'CUP WINNERS: Full match report', 'CHERNOBYL: the cloud over Kiev', 'The best guide to new records', 'What the elections really mean', and 'Saatchi & Saatchi become the world's number one'. The ad also mentions 'PLUS FIVE PAGES OF WEEKEND SPORT' and '88 pages plus the largest colour magazine AND STILL ONLY 50p'.

Advertisement for CLUB ITALIA 'ITALIAN IN VENICE'. It offers monthly courses (80 hrs) throughout the year at all levels. Course + accommodation £438. History of Art Courses. Tel: 01934-528 5358. The ad includes the Club Italia logo and some decorative elements.

May 10 - 16, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

The master of stately miracles . . .

Britain's finest houses are often a financial nightmare for their owners. William Greaves meets a man who eases the pain

Stately homes and large historic houses are not just star turns on Britain's rural stage, they also have leaking roofs, capricious out-breaks of dry rot, gardens that need manicuring into the middle distance and the sort of domestic bills which would send the average mortgagee running for the shelter of a council flat. However, when their owners need somewhere to run, the man they run to, like as not, is the urbane and immensely resourceful Mr Norman Hudson.

Spend a few hours in his company and the conversation seems to have encompassed half the pages of DeBrett. The main difference between 41-year-old Mr Hudson and any casual name-dropper, however, is that the names have just as much reason to be grateful to him as he has to them.

The visitor who crosses the moat of Broughton Castle, near Banbury in Oxfordshire, and tips his £1.70 entrance fee on to the counter might well believe that he is in the presence of one of Mr Arthur Daley's nice little earners. What he has actually tumbled upon is Lord and Lady Saye and Sele's perennial nightmare.

About four years ago they were forced to embark on a programme of restoration, estimated to cost £1 million over 20 years. Even allowing for a 40 per cent government subsidy from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, it has already swallowed up more than £250,000.

From admission to the house and grounds, and guide book, shop and tearoom sales they achieve a turnover of between £20,000 and £25,000 a year and a profit over wages and overheads of only £2,000 to £3,000.

"And the estimate for new drawing room curtains is £10,000," said Lord Saye and Sele with a wry smile. If the sound of those figures could scarcely be described as music to the bank manager's ears, they struck a far more discordant note before Norman Hudson came on the scene about 11 years ago.

"We used to serve cups of tea out of the kitchen window



The saviour of an expensive heritage: Norman Hudson in the grounds of Broughton Castle and, right, with Broughton's grateful owner, Lord Saye and Sele



but, under Norman's guidance, we first put tables and chairs out in the garage and now have a proper tea room", said Lady Saye and Sele. The statistics of advance are firmly rooted in her husband's head.

"The tea room takes about 70p per visitor now and the shop takes average out at about 50p per head", he says. "And we sell 2,250 guide books a year at 60p each. They show a nice profit - Norman would rather we charged £1 for them but I like to feel we give good value."

The Broughton Castle experience underlines Hudson's First Law. "No matter how great the profit from opening a house and gardens to the public," he says, "it can never offset the overall cost of running the place. All I can do is to advise on a whole range of things like grants, how best to reorganize tax commitments and how to maximise profits from open days and other activities."

Professionally trained as a land agent and occupationally

engaged as the confidante of landed gentry, it is scarcely surprising that the balding, easy-mannered Hudson seems as much at home in city suit as wellington boots.

And in size, if not age, his rambling farmhouse and out-buildings - almost a village within the village of Upper Wardington in Oxfordshire - are a suitable headquarters from which to operate as a financial agency aunt to historic house owners throughout Britain.

In Scotland, Hudson has worked his influence on Rosslyn Castle, near Edinburgh. Manderstone in Berkshire and, also in Berkshire, the magnificent Thirlestane Castle, which now houses the Border Country Life museum.

"Every case is different", says Hudson. "Some houses have lakes and parklands which can be utilized. Some are well placed for tourists, while others - although too

far off the beaten track for tourism - are ideally suited to banquets and conferences. Some houses can absorb quite large numbers of visitors and others lose their essential identity as a family home if too many people are admitted."

When Lord Somerleyton first approached Hudson 12 years ago, 30,000 people a year visited his two-mile-long lake near Great Yarmouth. Now Fritton Lake is a private country park, including a wild fowl reserve, children's adventure playground, pony riding and boating centre which attracts 150,000 visitors a year.

The magnificent early 18th century Chicheley Hall near Milton Keynes, on the other hand, was less well located for day trippers and Hudson's advice to Mr and Mrs John Nutting was to use it for functions, business conferences and gourmet dinners. Similarly Lord Bradford has turned his experience as a London restaurateur to good effect and is now in the

process of converting Weston Park in Shropshire to include 19 bedrooms to accommodate 32 resident guests - with clay pigeon shooting a speciality of the house.

Not every aristocratic patient leaves Hudson's surgery with a cure. "I was recently asked to look at one house and it upset me terribly to have to tell the owners that I could see no way out of their problem", he said. "There is no point raising hopes if you know that, whatever they do, it will be more trouble than it is worth."

Around 1950 there was an 18-month period in Britain when one major house was being torn down every four days. In many cases the elder son had been killed and, in others, the houses had been damaged beyond repair by wartime occupation. It was against this grim backdrop that the Duke of Bedford and the Marquis of Bath, at Woburn and Longleat respectively, embarked on a new age of stately home showmanship. And by 1953, the Govern-

ment, recognizing the plight of the nation's heritage, set up the Historic Buildings Council to make repair grants available. There was, however, a *quid pro quo*. If the Government was to pay part of the repair costs then the house and gardens must be opened to the public. Bedford and Bath were no longer out on their own.

The next bad news came in the early 1970s. The bullish tourist market was hit by the oil crisis and, to cap it all, the Government was talking of introducing a wealth tax. The Historic Houses Association, a sort of trade union of aristocrats, came into being and such was public sympathy that it gathered a million and a half signatures against the proposed tax - the biggest petition ever presented to Parliament. At that time the young Norman Hudson was running Savills' recreational land management department and, nine years ago, he became a technical adviser to the HHA and set up on his own as

a heritage property consultant. He has since been called in to rescue the finances of more than 100 great British houses - at least 35 times wearing his private company hat.

"Although allowing public access is part of the owner's deal when he gets a repair grant, I've never heard anyone complain about having to do so", says Hudson. "But opening for the first time can be traumatic. Where do the cars go? Where do you put the ticket office? Do you have guided tours? What about a shop, and what do you sell in it? A guide book or not? House security? Even the threat of your children being kidnapped can be a big worry."

"The stately homes of England", sang Noel Coward, "though rather in the lurch, provide a lot of chances for physical research..." He would no doubt be delighted to know that many of them are no longer haunted by the prospect of encroaching doom. Norman Hudson, entrepreneur extraordinary, has seen to that.

"In the early days there was a tendency for people to think of historic house owners in a 'them and us' way. Nowadays, I think everyone appreciates what a headache they have and are grateful for their efforts to maintain their property as a private home, rather than let it become a public institution."

"The stately homes of England", sang Noel Coward, "though rather in the lurch, provide a lot of chances for physical research..." He would no doubt be delighted to know that many of them are no longer haunted by the prospect of encroaching doom. Norman Hudson, entrepreneur extraordinary, has seen to that.

SATURDAY

American actor Tom Hulce on his return to more than a normal part, page 14

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. . . and a stately masterwork



House proud: Hal and Susan Bagot at Levens Hall - making them pay where it counts

Levens Hall, near Kendal in the Lake District, has graced countless calendars over the years. Its topiary garden, carved rather than grown by landscape gardener Guillaume Beaumont almost 300 years ago, is a magical tapestry of shapes and shadows. That, and the grandeur of the house itself, is more than enough to attract 37,000 visitors a year.

That statistic has not changed significantly since the summer of 1982. What has changed is that each person who then spent an average of £1.60 on his visit now gladly parts with £3.20. The summer of 1982 was, needless to say, the time Mr Hal Bagot and his wife Susan sought the help of Norman Hudson. And today, it is one of Mr Hudson's smaller adjustments which

obviously affords the present occupiers the greatest amusement.

"We used to have the ticket office at the entrance to the car parking area", recalls Mr Bagot, "and if anyone didn't like what we charged they would turn round and drive off again. Now you park first and walk to where you pay. By the time granny has been disembarked and one of the children probably wants the lavatory, it is too late for second thoughts."

Other transformations are less esoteric. Once cramped and uninviting, the tea room is now a slick serve-yourself dispensary of ploughman's lunches and freshly-made salads for which people willingly pay out £1.80 and £2.20 respectively.

signs ensure that no one misses the plant sale area - but only after they have admired, in the gardens, the speciality blooms on sale. And for the children there is now an adventure play area, rides on Big Bertha - an 18-ton showman's traction engine which is part of a spectacular steam collection - and Beatrix Potter books and models in the shop.

"Another thing Mr Hudson taught us was to keep precise records of everything that people pay at various stages of their tour on a week by week basis so we can make comparisons with other years", said Mr Bagot, who moved into the house with his wife, Susie, in 1975 and whose immediate family have owned it for more than 100 years.

Six years ago the Bagots - he is a chartered surveyor in Kendal - were confronted with a £75,000 re-roofing programme which has since grown to £90,000 with the discovery of widespread dry rot. Receipts from visitors - about £90,000 including VAT last year - make no contribution to house repairs and have to be offset against staff wages of £41,000 and an annual heating and lighting bill of £7,500.

Not much return for being open to the public from 11am to 5pm every day except Friday and Saturday from Easter Sunday until the end of September. But a great deal healthier than the days before Norman Hudson came to the help of yet another beleaguered stately home owner.

VICTORIA WINE OF THE MONTH

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VIEWING TIMES

Thursday 9th May 12 noon-8:00 pm
Friday 10th May 9:00 am-7:00 pm
Sunday 11th May 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Monday 12th May 9:00 am-2:00 pm

NEXT SALE

Monday 12th May 5:30 pm-9:00 pm

SOTHEBY'S CONDUIT ST. SALEROOM

ESTD. 1986

SHOPPING

It's time the chain stores sold furniture the way they sell fashion, says Beryl Downing

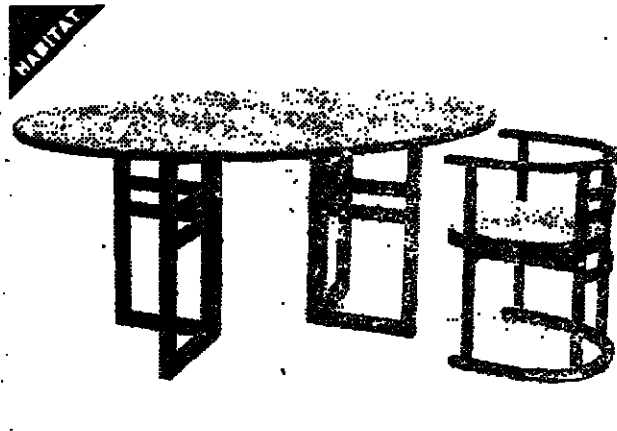
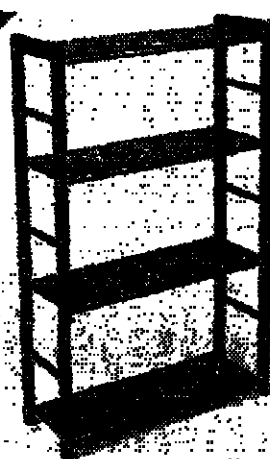
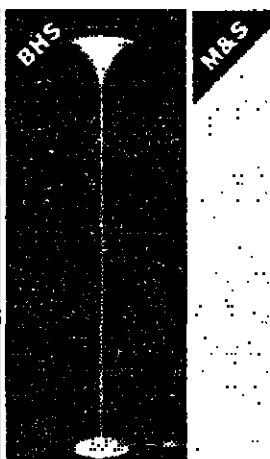
Breaking a high street habit



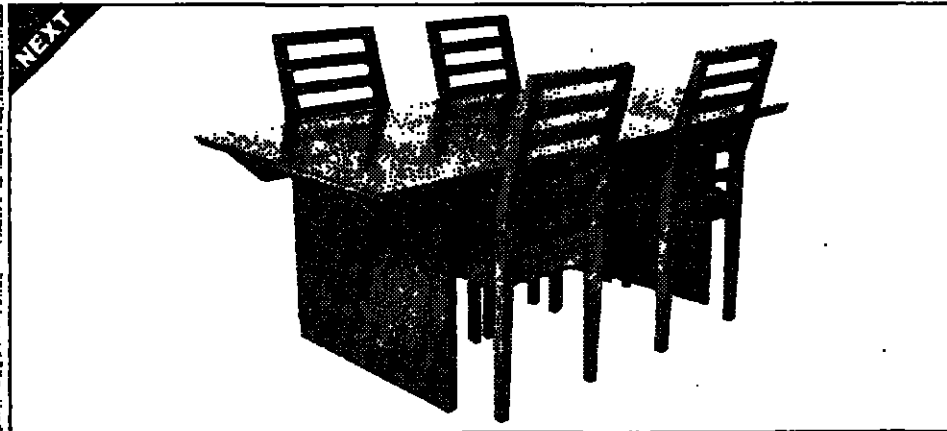
Left: chintzy chair in peach and sage on cream, £299. Sketched right: floral border on moiré cotton curtains, beige or green, from £25. Tulip printed curtains from £19.99, both Marks & Spencer. Peony wallpaper border £2.99 per roll available in two weeks from Next Interior.



Left: long and lean white painted metal uplighter, £35. Centre: mahogany bookshelves £89.50, also in pine at £59.50. Right: hand-painted vase designed by Janice Tchelenko, large black and yellow £24.99, small blue and pink £28.99, in editions of 1,000. Available end May.



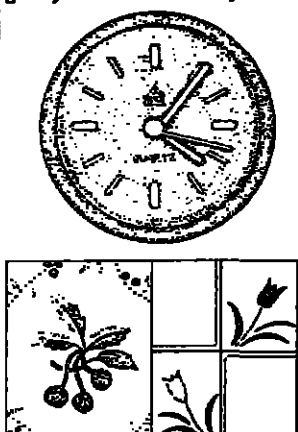
Left: Thirties style table £249, chair £79, from the Strasse range in black lacquered ash. Sketched right: satin-weave cotton, Albert, £7.95 per metre with matching wallpaper £5.95 per roll. Oak Leaves cotton £8.45 per metre. All in dark green and burgundy from Laura Ashley.



Above: elegantly simple dining table in dark grey ash with extending centre panel £250. Laddered back chairs upholstered in tweed £75 each, in leather £285. There are three occasional tables to match - small side table £49.99, coffee table £69.99 and console £99.99.



Left: glass-fronted pine cupboard £89.50; open shelf units £65 each at the sides. Sketched right: Habitat clock in green, yellow, red, grey or white, £8.95. Black and white cherry wallpaper £4.95 per roll, Laura Ashley. Tulip tile wallcovering £7.99 per roll, Marks & Spencer.



Above: space-saving wall-mounted drop-leaf table in golden pine £45. Matching high stools are £25 each. Also in the St Michael golden pine kitchen range are three tables - gateleg £89, rectangular or round £35 each - chairs at £45 each and wall units with solid doors at £99.50.

It is about time the chain-store gang got its act together and began to sell furniture as efficiently as it sells fashion. Until this week not one of the chains had made any serious attempt to challenge Habitat's hold on the High Street, but now Marks & Spencer have had an idea that might change the way we buy our furnishings. On Thursday, opposite their main Marble Arch flagstore, M & S opened their first separate store devoted entirely to furniture and furnishings. Next week they will go a step further in Croydon - a single subject satellite store laid out like a bungalow. Each department will be set out in a room of its own, so that customers will move from kitchen to dining, living, bed and bathrooms, selecting their co-ordinated furnishings as they go. M & S have tried a satellite store before - the specialist children's shop in York - but they are not too sure that separating a section of clothing from the main store is a good idea. Furniture, they feel, is quite a

different matter, and their approach is has certainly been original. Because they had difficulty in finding a British furniture manufacturer "with the attitude we wanted", M & S put the project in the hands of one of their major footwear suppliers, Peter Black, who at their instigation bought Jentique of Norfolk: a well-known, but dying company.

The need for imagination

With the guidance of the M & S buyers a range of wood furniture was developed which includes dining and occasional tables, shelves and bedroom furniture. There were fewer problems with the upholstered furniture, which is being made by Christie Tyler, already well known in the field. "We were not exactly swept off our feet by the response from the furniture trade", says Don

Trangmar, homework director of M & S. "Homeware is clearly very underdeveloped, but when you look at the furniture industry most retailers and manufacturers do nothing for their customers' imaginations. "We see this as an opportunity to offer goods of the quality people expect from us, presented in a stimulating way. If it is successful we will take the concept even further."

It needs to be taken further. At the moment, the furniture range is small, and as traditional as you would expect from a company known for reliability rather than avant-garde design.

It is particularly suitable for those who like a country look - pine for the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom; chintz and mahogany for the living room. It is a rather "me too" collection, but made mainly in solid woods rather than veneer and therefore representing good value.

doubtedly Next has the most stylish designs - their ash dining-table and chairs and console table are particularly elegant in dark-grey ash. But this hardly represents a furniture collection. Next's Tricia Guild fabrics are in a charming range of colours and their Janice Tchelenko ceramics are the collector's pieces of the mass market.

Great variety of pattern

British Home Stores are quietly relying on its reputation for lighting - their clocks and towels are good, too - until the effect of the Conran take-over is felt. Habitat itself has some interesting new Thirties styles to add to the mixture as before. For the greatest variety of pattern in furnishing fabrics and accessories Laura Ashley is the best High Street bet. The ranges are by no means all sprigged and flouncy; there are

richly coloured paisleys, textured tapestry effects, glowing dark satins as well as fresh country chintzes. But you have to look at the catalogue to get the full picture - you would never guess the possible permutations from looking at the store displays. So the M & S "bungalow" approach is an imaginative improvement on the present state of mass-market furnishings. Perhaps the step further they speak of will one day give us what we really need - a layout that really does look like a show house.

But that will remain a pipedream while British retailers are obsessed by sales per square foot. It is not unknown for customers to buy an entire room set from a specialist furnishing shop when they can actually relate it to their own home, so cluttering the place with sales fixtures does not always pay off. Hasn't one of the big retailers the courage to see if showing less would mean selling more?

DRINK

Right label, wrong wine

Look along the white wine shelves of any English wine shop and you will find the word Riesling on a multitude of bottles. Many of the white wine labels sans Riesling will have, in any case, been styled on this appealingly grapey-flowerly variety. Liebfraumilch, Britain's biggest selling white wine, is the indubitable example. Some Liebfraumilch brands could well still have a smidgen of Riesling in the blend. In practice most are likely to be Müller-thurgau or Silvaner based. Unfortunately many of those bottles, even labelled Riesling, contain wines that have been made from the bogus Riesling, better and more politely known as the Italian Riesling or false Riesling. What these Rieslings offer is mostly just a bland, sweet, vaguely grapey glassful. And if you expect your bargain bottle to be reminiscent of the true Riesling grape, as found in the Mosel or Saar say, with its pale greeny-white colour, apple-flowerly scent and vital, racy, steely character you will, alas, be sorely disappointed.

Telling one from 'other is for once in the wine world, easy. The false Riesling's most familiar guise, in this country, is that of Yugoslavia's Laski Riesling. Hungary's Olaszriesling is another widely distributed false Riesling. Austria has its Welschriesling, Rumania its Laski Riesling, and Italy sells bogus Riesling under the Italic Riesling and Welschriesling labels. Bulgaria it seems is the only joker in the pack for although this country sells Welschriesling, many of its wines sold simply as Riesling, have a hefty dollop of Welschriesling mixed into the blend too.



Germany is the chief home of the true Riesling, often known as Rhine Riesling. Apart from the stately, green elegance of a magnificent Mosel, a Riesling from a fine Rhine state will have a pale straw-gold colour and a glorious rich, peachy character. With age both will turn into a luscious honeyed, multi-layered, lime-juice like mouthful. Finding these Teutonic taste-trips, outside the most celebrated estates, is getting increasingly more difficult as German growers turn away from their labour-intensive, steep, suntrap, pocket handkerchief slopes in favour of the lesser quality low-lying vineyards.

Still if great German Rieslings are becoming more elusive, fine New World Rieslings are definitely on the increase. South Africa still has some way to go with its Weisser Riesling but in California late harvest genuine Riesling is known as Johannisberg Riesling or sometimes as White Riesling. Australia, despite its hot climate, is beginning to make both some fine, floral, aperitif style Rieslings, albeit with that tell-tale Muscat character that ripe Riesling devel-

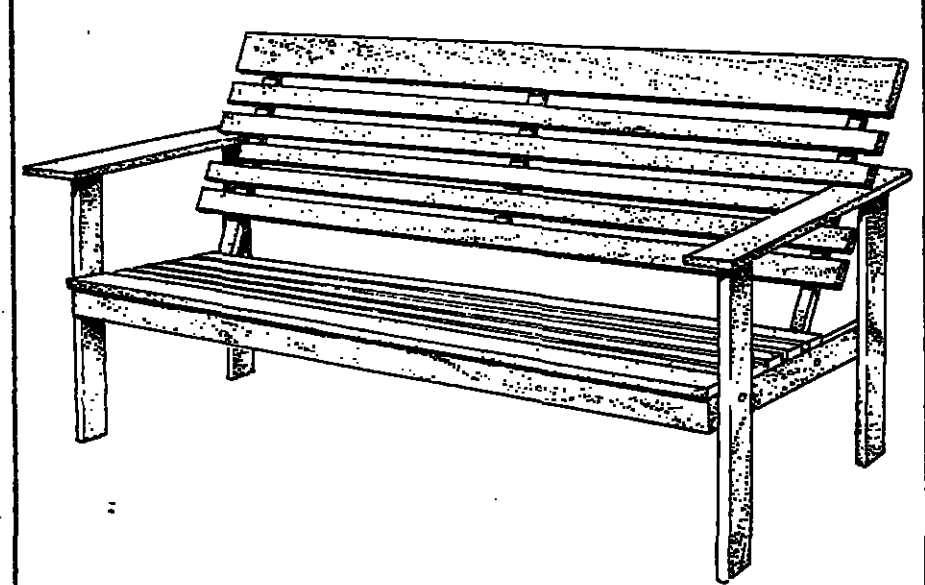
ops, plus some fine late harvest Rieslings too. Perhaps the purest form of word Riesling are the wines produced in Alsace. Most of these flowery elegant Rieslings are bone dry like other Alsace wines. Finer still are the late-harvest style Rieslings, whose grapes have been attacked with noble rot, and have been turned into rich, complex wines. The Hugel family make some especially good examples of this style. Their 79 Riesling Réserve Personnelle with its rich, positive, flowery flavour has a touch of that petrol-like nose that great German Rieslings develop. Sainsbury's stock this wine for £5.95. Not cheap, I know, but considering the quality of the wine a bargain nonetheless. Sainsbury's also stock a wide range of German noble-rotted wines in those late harvest, ascending-sweet styles of Spätlese, Auslese and Beerenauslese. The quality of these Sainsbury's sweetens does vary but the 1983 Serriger Vogelsang Riesling Auslese from the Verwaltung der Staatlichen Weinbaudomanen at Trier is a textbook example of a great Saar wine. Its fresh, green, flowery-apple nose is backed up by a lovely fresh green luscious taste complete with that steely backbone so typical of the Saar. (Sainsbury's £5.75)

An excellent German Riesling this time from the Rhine is Deinhard's delicious '82 Winkler Hasensprung Riesling Kabinett. Unlike the Réserve Personnelle and the Auslese, which are really pudding tips, this wine makes a useful spring aperitif and first course wine. With its flowery, waxy bouquet and similarly full-flavoured palate it is excellent value for money priced at just £3.99 from Waitrose.

Finally if you like the thought of finishing off a meal with a sweet wine but are worried about opening (and finishing) a whole bottle, then the half bottle of a luscious dessert wine is the cheaper and more suitable answer. Few firms, alas, stock this post-prandial convenience. Les Amis du Vin, 51 Chiltern Street, London W1, and The Wine Studio, 9 Eccleston Street, London SW1, however, carry the powerful, rich, peachy honeyed '82 Firestone Selected Late Harvest Riesling. Expensive at £10.75 a half bottle but worth it.

Jane MacQuitty

NATURAL TIMBER GARDEN BENCH



The appeal of real wooden furniture puts it in a class of its own especially when combined with stylish design. This garden bench displays both qualities. To perfection being made from Iroko hardwood which is extremely hardwearing through all types of weather. The wood needs little attention but may be treated with teak oil as required. The slats on the seat and back are angled to provide comfort and the overall design of the bench makes it an elegant item of furniture for any garden, patio or conservatory. The bench is supplied with easy home assembly instructions and measures four feet in length.

Form for ordering the garden bench, including fields for name, address, and telephone number.

A cut above for the closest of shaves

IN THE GARDEN

Gardening should be a pleasure and the more one can take the hard, repetitive work out of every-day maintenance the more pleasant it becomes. Although grass is the easiest form of gardening, it is a repetitive job but one where machinery can be used to full advantage. There are two ways of cutting grass - by a cylinder rotary machine. Both work well but each has a place and time for its use. You should buy the best machine you can afford for the task. For a lawn less than 100 square yards, for example, an electric 12 or 15-inch machine would be sufficient. The other factor to consider is if you want to catch the clippings or allow them to fly. You may want a different machine according to your needs. Here are some examples of good mowers and their uses: Hand machines are still popular if the lawn is not too big and the Qualcast Panther 30 at £30 is good value. Powered machines are much more popular and the Qualcast RE25X (around £65) with a 10-inch cut is recommended. It is a cylinder machine with the ability to box cuttings as well as letting them fly. Black and Decker have the R4 (£65), a 12-inch rotary again with no box. Flymo's 10-inch Sprinter E25 (around £50) is a rotary with no box. Bigger gardens call for bigger machines and the electric RE35X (about £85) from Qualcast is another cylinder machine with a grass box and a 14-inch cutting width. Its long lead makes it suitable for quite big gardens. Available as an attachment is a lawn rake kit, costing £20. Flymo's Sprintmaster XE38 rotary has a grass box and its 15-inch cut picks up most of the mowings, leaving stripes. The RM40 rotary from Black and Decker (around £138) is fitted with a grass box and has a 16-inch cut. Where there is a large grass area and where electric machines are difficult to operate, the best machine is the Suffolk Punch. It comes in three sizes with cutting edges ranging from 12 to 16 inches and range in price from £180 to £220. The solid, well-constructed machines should have a life of at least 15 years under regular use. For big gardens there is the Flymo Lawn-chief range. The R140 is a 16-inch machine with grass collection and a good engine which enables the blades to rotate quickly, cutting the grass finely. Cutting areas through which bulbs have grown needs a powerful rotary machine. The Flymo Pilot Range is more than adequate. The 47CM will stand up to the roughest use and will reduce 18 to 24-inch grass to 3 or 4 inches quickly, allowing a lighter machine to finish off the job. A machine which can cut long grass and leave a lawn in good condition is the Victoria Vortex (around £350). Well constructed with its own power unit it has a large capacity grass box and easy height adjustment for the blades. It is expensive compared with some of the machines mentioned previously but where there is a large garden with a variety of tasks this may be the machine you require. Scarifying good quality lawn areas is a task which is often neglected and apart from a good engine which enables the blades to rotate quickly, cutting the grass finely. In gardens where it is difficult to fit in a compost heap, or in areas where burning garden refuse is impossible, the task of disposing garden refuse calls for a great deal of time. Garden shredders seem to be one of the best answers where the garden rubbish can be reduced to a product which is easily bagged. Some have their own power unit while others are operated by electricity. The Alko Compost Star 1100 (£100) can be recommended as can the Black and Decker D38 Shredder (£129). They will take prunings up to one-inch thick and leave it suitable for the compost heap.

ASHLEY STEPHENSON

QUESTION TIME

I have a big garden and would like to plant one or two large trees, an oak, a lime or an ash for instance. Do I need to prepare well? Trees which take up to 200 years to mature should be given the best possible start. Prepare a site three feet square and three feet deep, remove the topsoil and put it to one side. Remove the next layer of soil and put it to one side, but separate from the top soil. The next layer should be dug over and when broken up you should add at least six inches of good quality farmyard manure and fork it in. Replace the next layer and add bonemeal at four ounces per square yard and fork in. Replace topsoil.

Advertisement for 'STOP THE FLOP' and 'AUK LABELS' with contact information and prices.

Advertisement for 'The Unique Powered Collector from Westwood' featuring a tractor and contact details.

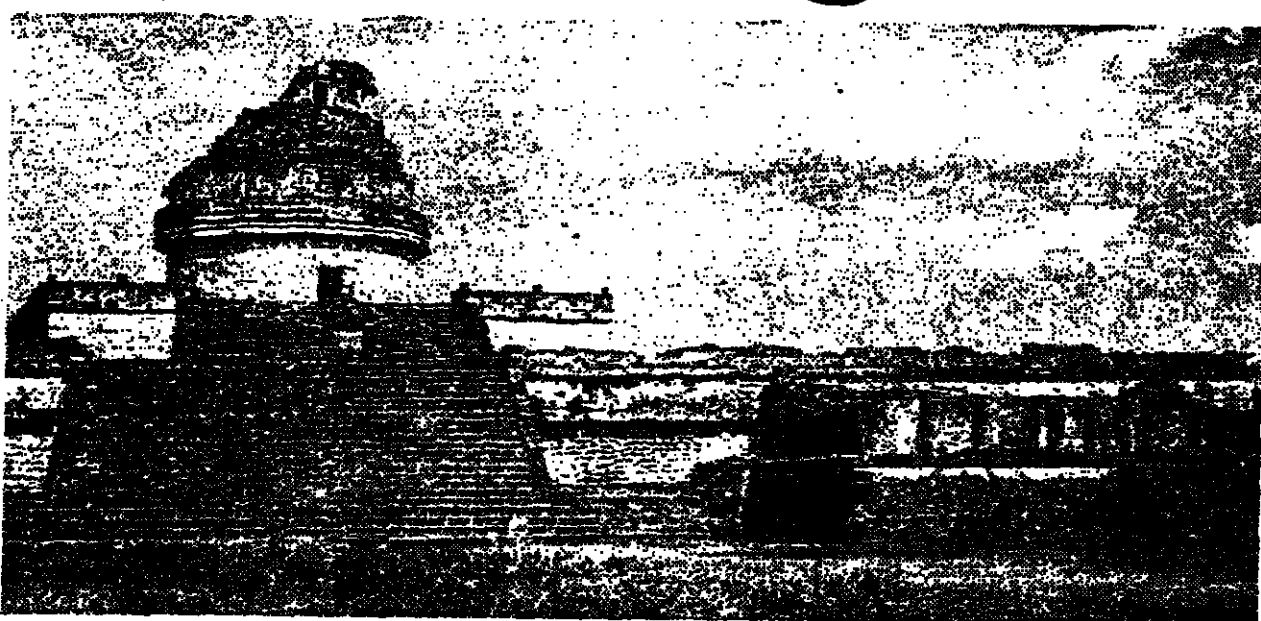
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TRAVEL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

A poor country of rich legacies

Amid towering mountains, Spanish architecture and clattering music, Alan Franks finds there is more to Mexico than its over-populated, polluted capital city and a land preparing for a football showdown



Reaching for the sky: the ruins of the Mayan observatory at Chichén Itzá on the Yucatan peninsula

You cannot help feeling rather sorry for Mexico. There she is, innocently trying to project the best possible image of herself, as would any country in the run-up to the World Cup, only to see her efforts thwarted by the twin blights of debt and earthquake.

Seven months after the tragedy which tore the heart out of the capital, many of the felled skyscrapers still lie slumped on their foundations, while others stand gaunt and empty along the broad avenues, giants dead on their feet.

It is hardly the stuff of which foreign allure is made, but there are two important factors to be borne in mind. Firstly, there is far more to the country than its main and massive metropolis, and secondly, Mexico City was never much to write home about even before the earthquake.

I revisited Mexico two months ago, having been there 10 days prior to the catastrophe. By the time it struck I was far away in Athens, reading the news in an English language paper. The stark headline, "Mexico destroyed" presumably reproduced all over the world, carried the simple complication which has made the situation so falsely perceived: For the word Mexico is frequently used as shorthand for the capital; but to those not in the know, such headlines meant an entire country had become a write-off.

Three hundred miles away in the new coastal resort of Ixtapa, next to the fishing village of Zihuatanejo, bookings are drastically down merely because there was a single night-terror. No one was killed.

Mexico City's troubles have been marching inexorably towards their present for years. With 20-million inhabitants, it is the biggest city in the world. Every day 1,000 more arrive from the countryside in the usually vain hope of finding work.

Such is the pollution that at night the day's fumes regroup in the atmosphere above the city and lower themselves in the cooling air to permeate the dawn and give the illusion of a mellow English autumn.

Mexico City is best treated as a place through which to pass en route to a suitably far destination, of which there is no shortage. The last time I was here I made the two standard journeys, southwards across the Sierra Madre to Acapulco, and eastwards to the fantastic Mayan rubble of the Yucatan peninsula.

This time it seemed appropriate to go north on what they call the revolution route, via Querétaro to San Miguel de Allende in Guanajuato. Querétaro had the added attraction of being the home of Scotland's group in the World Cup - a group which has been dubbed, unfortunately perhaps, el grupo del muerte (the group of death), which means nothing more sinister than that its outcome will be crucial to the tournament.

These towns all have cores of splendid colonial architecture and squares lined with squat Indian Laurel trees which seem to moisten the air of a summer's evening.

With a modicum of luck you will catch a mariachi band in full flight. Mexico is a country rich in cultural accretions, in its art no less than in its buildings, and through this peculiar hybrid of noises you can hear the voices of successive incomers - from the rumpets of the Spanish to the mel-

odies of the French. At first hearing, the bands - even the good ones - can sound like a group of men who have suddenly taken it into their heads to beat up a kitchen. Besides which, it seems to be a semi-tone out, and just the fraction of a bar away from the time. Still, it contains Noel Coward's pre-requisite for popular music - potency - and I for one could gladly listen to the stuff all evening.

Guanajuato is the jewel in this little crown of towns. The railway has given all its got in the way of narrowing and blasting to reach it from the south, but at this point it gives up in the face of a new range of barrier hills.

For reasons best known to Mexico, no foreigner seems to have heard of Guanajuato, which is extraordinary. It is a totally implausible thing, part man and part mountain, not just growing out of the rock, but also delving deeply into it so as to form a system of roads along the course of the subterranean river beds. This fools the driv-

er into thinking himself far below the surface of the earth, only to emerge into the daylight above a dizzying vista of hills. I cannot think of the proper European comparison. Ronda in Southern Spain and Rocamadour in the Dordogne come to mind, but even they lack the absurdly prolix system of lanes and levels.

It was here that I had my first, tranquilla of the journey, complete with the full ritual that Mexican custom demands - a sprinkling of salt on the back of the hand, licked

off with a stroke of the tongue, the clear fluid in the glass downed in one, followed by a bite into a segment of lemon. The procedure smacks of a terrible machismo, more conducive to suffering than to hedonism, but that is the way they do things. It tasted horrible, and I had another.

In the evening on my way to the town's sole Irishman, a Dublin expatriate called James Patrick O'Shaughnessy Doyle. He fell in love with a Guanajuato girl and her town - in that order I believe - and settled here several years ago, teaching English at the university from text books devised in Switzerland. He struck me as a rather Joycean figure - wry, mournful, and at once both bridling and contented with the perspective of his exile.

The Juárez Theatre is as unexpected as the Opera House in Manaus, an extravagance of Victorian fussiness, with seats rearing almost sheer tiers to the Gods.

My original plan had been to go from here to Chihuahua in the north west, and then ride the famous Copper Canyon railway for two days to its terminus at Los Mochis in the Gulf of California. But there was snow on the line and the trains were off. So it was with the English summer in mind that I flew to Monterrey, where our boys will be doing battle in the early stages of the Cup. I am not referring to the fans, although God knows their reputation has come in advance of them to Mexico.

Outwardly at least, the police chiefs are making conciliatory noises about the consequences of bad behaviour, and refusing all those fearful rumours about the quality of life in the nick.

Like so many other Latin American towns, Monterrey suffers from the image of a popular song, and in this case quite erroneously, since that Monterrey has only one, and is situated in California. This Monterrey is a considerable town of one and a half million

inhabitants, cupped in a broad basin of the Sierra Madre Oriental, with its serrated peaks looking down on the valley.

This in many ways is the acceptable face of Mexico, the one you seldom come to read about. Here is a city that works: unemployment is low, the people go to bed early, corruption is on the run, the lavatory doors lock and the flushes flush, and the whole place is driven along by a sense of regional pride bordering on the secessionist.

There are three ways back down to Mexico City - the plane, the road, and the train, the last of which looks like a dirty but romantic legacy of Woody Guthrie's America, clanking out of town on its two-day haul, while the mountain walls return baleful echoes to the horn.

It sounds like the blues for a country bound hand and foot to its own internal past, at the very moment of planning a future of international acceptability.

TRAVEL NOTES

Many airlines fly to Mexico (see Fare Deals below). Cars with foreign number plates can travel freely if they carry the entry permit issued by customs on arrival. One advantage of road travel is the Angeles Verdes (Green Angels) who are the first organization of its kind to offer free breakdown assistance along the main

highways. Continental Airlines has introduced a series of packages for a week at various destinations including Mexico City, Acapulco, and the Yucatan Peninsula. Details of travel offers from the Mexican Tourist Office at 7 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 1056).

Breton retreat that makes light work of painting

As a hard luck story the saga of the 'Pont-Aven School' of Painting in Brittany takes some beating. After one would guess, years of dreaming and planning, the vision finally became reality on May 7, 1939. Six months later the school was dead, 'dead of the early victims of the Second World War'.

'Ever since painters first discovered Brittany a century ago, Pont-Aven has been a favoured centre', said the founders in the introductory brochure. 'Our intention is to provide a school combining the advantages of a sketching class abroad and those of a city school...'

The scheme, which had the backing of such eminent names as Augustus John and Walter Richard Sickert, was so attractive that the wonder is that it has never been resurrected. For anyone with an urge to paint Pont-Aven is the ideal home.

It was Gauguin who put the place on the artistic map and it is not hard to see why scores of artists from all over the world were inspired to make their way there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

'It is the light', I was told by Catherine Puget, curator of the Musée de Pont-Aven. And certainly on a sunny September morning the light was heavenly. So, too, were the colours and indeed the whole ambience. Even those whose skill with a brush is limited to painting by numbers could not fail to be impressed; for the true artist the spot must be well nigh irresistible.

We spent as long admiring the paintings in the museum as the impatience of small children would allow. Then, with the threat of juvenile vandalism looming, we moved on, making our way through the delightful Bois d'Amour up to La Chapelle de Trémalo, where hangs the 16th-century wooden crucifix which inspired Gauguin's 'Yellow Christ'.

Set in a shady spot on the top of a hill, the chapel is said to be typical of the type found all over rural Brittany. Outside the birds twittered in the branches; inside, the light played gently on the rough stone pillars - soft blues and yellows and oranges on simple grey stone.

Two leathery old locals eyed us suspiciously as we emerged into the sunlight. They had clearly seen our sort before and had not liked what they had seen. The Bretons have something of a reputation for disliking foreigners - which

apparently includes anyone from beyond the boundaries of Brittany. Their behaviour, however, belies their image. There was the garage mechanic, for example, who turned out to repair our car. 'The Bretons are very inhuman', he said. 'We have many qualities but we are not good at dealing with outsiders.' Whereupon he proceeded to chatter away as if to a lifelong suitor. He also had the grace not to pass comment on the fact that the only thing wrong with the wretched car was one faulty sparking plug. He couldn't, in short, have been friendlier or more tactful. Nor could Mme Dieulouard, who owned the 17th-century farmhouse near Pendre where we stayed for a week, living in one of the outbuildings that has been converted to holiday cottages. 'While our car was off the road, she lent us hers, on one strict condition. "I am learning to speak your language so you must speak English to me", she said firmly. "No English, no car." And she meant it. Even her black Scotty dog - the latest addition to her canine collection - reflected her Anglophilia: Agatha, she called, after Agatha Christie. "Because she is always sniffing the ground".

The farm, at Pendre, about two miles outside Treguiec, was idyllic. The silence was broken only by birdsong and the bleating of a couple of goats; down a lane bordered by a profusion of blackberry bushes lay the beach, with a broad stretch of sand and a

mass of rocks to clamber on. We ate the blackberries and swam in the sea. We drank Breton cider and dreamed impossible dreams. That was all. But it was enough. Habitues of the region told us to explore Concarneau, a mere seven miles away, and so we did - briefly. The ancient fortifications are striking if true, but beyond the intriguing if somewhat incongruous sound of a bagpiper playing a Highland lament on the waterfront, we found little to keep us there.

The guide books waxed equally lyrical about places like Quimper, Brest and Fousnant; all were within easy driving distance, but they might as well have been at the North Pole. In competition with Gauguin, blackberries and a dog called Agatha, they didn't stand a chance.

John Carey went to Brittany with Meon Villa Holidays, Meon (0730 68411). This year a week in the same cottage at Pendre costs from £179 to £229. This year marks the centenary of Gauguin's arrival at Pont Aven and the Musée is celebrating with a special exhibition this summer.



Gauguin: thousands follow his lead

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Finding the right routes to Mexico's branches

It is several years since Britons last enjoyed direct flights to Mexico. British Airways suspended its Mexico City service in 1983 and Mexican flag-carrier Aeromexico has never flown here. So the current best routings are either via the USA or European points such as Paris, Madrid or Amsterdam.

Official fares to Mexico City through Europe/USA start at £599 for a low season excursion (valid for travel until June 14) rising to £659 for peak season travel (June 15 until October 14). If you want a stopover the fares rise to £766 low, £847 peak season.

Some airlines, like British Caledonian and US carriers Continental and American, offer lower Apex fares if you travel via the USA. Book at least 21 days ahead. Low season Apex is £576 return, peak £599.

From next month Dallas-based American Airlines will be operating the most convenient through flights. Departing from Gatwick at 10.35am you can reach Mexico City by 5.20pm (local time) the same day following a speedy 90-minute connection at Dallas.

But not everyone is heading for Mexico City, the only destination that is served direct from Europe. If bound for other cities like Acapulco or Monterrey, it can be more convenient to fly via the USA. In such cases you would head for a major gateway such as Miami/Houston/Dallas and transfer there to Mexico destinations like Acapulco/Cancun/Cozumel/Guadalupe/Jarama/Monterrey. The main US carriers serving Mexico from these points are American/Continental/Pan Am plus the two Mexican airlines, Aeromexico and Mexicana.

FARE DEALS

The current crop of US promotional fares means it is more economical to travel that way provided you buy two separate tickets. For example, B. Cal is currently offering a £398 return "Latesaver" fare (book close to departure, depart before the end of June) from London to Houston/Dallas. Combine this fare with a separate Continental Airlines' excursion between Houston and Mexico City or Acapulco costing \$195 (£130) and this will give you a total fare of £528... up to £60 less than the Apex fare.

Flying via the USA also allows "open jaw" (fly to one destination and return from another) convenience. Mexican airlines do not offer domestic Airpasses such as those for America. But as domestic flights are subsidised they are relatively cheap. For example, the 190-mile Mexico City/Acapulco hop cost some \$26 (£17) or you would pay around \$43 (£28) for the 443-mile Mexico City/Monterrey flight. Privately-owned Mexicana Airlines has a UK office.

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Pont-Aven attracts lots of artists, but its tranquil atmosphere has other benefits

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The farm, at Pendre, about two miles outside Treguiec, was idyllic. The silence was broken only by birdsong and the bleating of a couple of goats; down a lane bordered by a profusion of blackberry bushes lay the beach, with a broad stretch of sand and a

mass of rocks to clamber on. We ate the blackberries and swam in the sea. We drank Breton cider and dreamed impossible dreams. That was all. But it was enough. Habitues of the region told us to explore Concarneau, a mere seven miles away, and so we did - briefly. The ancient fortifications are striking if true, but beyond the intriguing if somewhat incongruous sound of a bagpiper playing a Highland lament on the waterfront, we found little to keep us there.

The guide books waxed equally lyrical about places like Quimper, Brest and Fousnant; all were within easy driving distance, but they might as well have been at the North Pole. In competition with Gauguin, blackberries and a dog called Agatha, they didn't stand a chance.

John Carey went to Brittany with Meon Villa Holidays, Meon (0730 68411). This year a week in the same cottage at Pendre costs from £179 to £229. This year marks the centenary of Gauguin's arrival at Pont Aven and the Musée is celebrating with a special exhibition this summer.

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CHESS

Rough and tumble

Kleinwort Griesevon, sponsors of the British Championship, are branching out with a novel contribution to London Chess Year...

Spectators are welcome and entry will be free. The venue is the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street...

Alburt is not a great stylist, more of a rough and tumble specialist. He has won the US Championship for the past two years...

White: Alburt; Black: Gurevich.

Modern Benoni, US Championship 1985. 1 P-Q4 N-KB3 2 P-Q4 P-B4 3 P-Q5 P-B2 4 N-Q3 P-B3

A poor move which should have been rejected in favour of 12... Q-N2.

White now enjoys a great advantage since Black's pieces can be driven back.

More accurate is 20 N-N5! 20 N-N5 21 B-B7 22 B-B8 23 B-B9 24 B-B0

Black launches a fightback. If now 27 P-N B-K4 amusingly traps the White Queen in mid-board.

The losing error. He had to try 28... P-R3!

And Black at once resigned in view of 33 QxRch and R-K8 mate.

At the same time as the UK-US match of champions, Tony Miles, British Olympic number one, will challenge the World champion, Gary Kasparov...

The Times will be carrying daily reports of both these important events involving two of the top British Grandmasters.

Raymond Keene

THE TIMES COOK

Shona Crawford Poole has some wild designs on lasagne

Luscious layers

There is nothing for it but a full-frontal admission, an eating of formerly printed words: wholemeal pasta can be very good.

Fresh wholemeal pasta is an altogether more agreeable commodity. A single batch of dough made with finely ground 100 per cent wholemeal flour and free range eggs was the only persuasion needed...

Wholemeal noodles need no more than a pat of butter and plenty of pungent Parmesan cheese. But in baked dishes like lasagne, it is the more robust fillings such as ragu bolognese or wild mushrooms which work best.

Wholemeal pasta Makes 570g (1 1/4 lbs) 340g (12oz) finely ground wholemeal flour 1 teaspoon salt 4 large eggs

Finely ground wholemeal flour is sold for cake and pastry-making. If none is available, a mixture of coarser wholemeal and strong or plain white flour can be used...

Make the dough by hand or in a processor. Put the flour and salt on a sheet of paper. Put the eggs in the processor and, with the machine running, add the flour all at once...

Process the dough until it forms a ball. To make the dough by hand, mix the eggs, flour and salt. Knead the dough for two or three minutes, then rest it, wrapped to prevent drying, for about 30 minutes.

Knead it again before rolling it out thinly by hand or with a pasta roller and cut into wide bands of lasagne, or into ribbon noodles. Cook the wholemeal pasta in plenty of boiling salted water. Cooking times will depend on the dryness and thickness of the pasta.

Mushroom filling Serves eight 30g (1oz) dried porcini, boletus edulis 600ml (1 pint) boiling water 55g (2oz) butter 1 large onion, finely chopped 500g (1lb 2oz) mushrooms, sliced Salt and freshly ground black pepper Put the dried mushrooms in a bowl and pour the boiling water over them. Leave them to soak for an hour, then drain. Keep the liquid, which can be used in place of half the milk in the bechamel. Chop the rehydrated mushrooms finely.

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan and add the flour. Stir the roux for a minute or two on a moderate heat without allowing it to colour. Then gradually add the milk, stirring constantly, until the sauce is smooth and thick. Season it with salt, pepper and freshly ground nutmeg.

In autumn and winter fresh porcini mushrooms can be used to make a luxurious filling for lasagne. When none are available, bolster the flavour of fresh cultivated mushrooms with a few dried porcini.

To serve with noodles, or as a building block for lasagne, a good ragu bolognese is called for. I have been using Elizabeth David's recipe from Italian Food (Penguin, £3.95) since spaghetti was in fashion in the Sixties, and see no reason to try another.

Another essential component of any lasagne recipe is a bechamel sauce for which there are many more complicated formulas than this.

Bechamel sauce Makes 1 litre (1 1/2 pints) 85g (3oz) butter 85g (3oz) plain flour 1 litre (1 1/2 pints) milk Salt and freshly ground pepper Freshly grated nutmeg

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan and add the flour. Stir the roux for a minute or two on a moderate heat without allowing it to colour. Then gradually add the milk, stirring constantly, until the sauce is smooth and thick. Season it with salt, pepper and freshly ground nutmeg.

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Lasagne Serves eight 450g (1lb) fresh, or 225g (8oz) dried, pasta Salt 1 litre (1 1/2 pints) bechamel sauce 1 recipe mushroom filling or ragu bolognese 30g (1oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta a few sheets at a time in plenty of boiling salted water. It is ready when it still has a little bite and is not mushy. Lay the lasagne on clean tea cloths to dry. Butter a large rectangular earthenware dish about 25cm by 35cm (10in by 14in), or something similar. Fill the dish, beginning with a skimpy ragu or mushroom layer. Cover the filling with sheets of pasta, trimming them to fit with overlaps of no more than 7mm (1/4 inch). Add another thin layer of filling and a ladle of bechamel. Continue the layers until the dish is full, ending with a generous layer of bechamel. Sprinkle the top with grated Parmesan. If the ingredients are to be baked without cooking, cook the lasagne in a preheated hot oven (230C/450F, gas mark 8) for about 15 minutes.

If the assembled lasagne is cold when it goes into the oven, cover it loosely with foil and bake it for 30 minutes in a preheated moderately hot oven (200C/400F, gas mark 6), then remove the foil, raise the heat (230C/450F, gas mark 8) and bake it for another 15 minutes.



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OUT AND ABOUT



King cotton: Quarry Bank Mill, founded in 1784 by Samuel Greg. His workers' quarters were above the usual standard

Our industrious heritage

Droylsden is not an inspiring place-name. Nor is it an inspiring place. But it has a surprise in store - buried in the middle of dull late Victorian and Edwardian surroundings is an oasis - Fairfield, founded and built 200 years ago as a working example of self sufficiency within a tight religious regime.

Although the architecture is pleasant, Fairfield's real interest lies in its history and the principles behind it. It is one of a handful of Moravian villages: the last and largest of five built in Britain between 1742 and 1785. The Moravians were the first post-Reformation sect in Europe and had re-surfaced in Germany in the 1720s. In Britain they concentrated their missionary activity in industrial areas. Fairfield was close enough to Manchester for convenience, far enough away for peace.

Moravian aspirations shine from the place, solid terraced houses, two and three storey, arranged as a square. At the south end stands a chapel, the school and houses for the brethren and the sisters - the unmarried members of the village who lived communally, with their workshops in the same building. Nowadays the shared economy is dead and the school is state run. No trace remains of the farm or the flourishing 19th-century businesses.

One side of the square is called Sisters' Street, the other Brethren Street. To this day, coffins are carried down whichever applies. Other characteristic Moravian village features are the graveyard planted as a garden (they considered death should be a cheerful subject) and the cupola with a platform, on top of the chapel, for music on festive days.

On the other side of Manchester is Styal - a village which grew to accommodate the employees of Samuel Greg, whose Quarry Bank Mill (for cotton) was founded in 1784. Although this was no Utopian settlement, it was much above the usual standard. The Gregs built sizeable two-bedroom cottages with gardens and low rents. The earliest workers lived in agricultural cottages, and even a barn, in the hamlet called Farm Fold. Oak Cottages were built in the 1820s, along with the chapel, school and shop. But the building which reminds us of how things were, even under a benevolent employer, is the apprentice house built for the child labour force, up to 100 at one time.

Unlike Fairfield, where life and work often went on under the same roof, here the village and the mill were set well apart. The National Trust owns it all and the mill, apprentice house, shop and cottages can be visited. Both these villages seem rather rural today. You couldn't say the same for Port Sunlight, an industrial village built a century later near Birkenhead. The philanthropic soap manufacturer Lord Leverhulme did his best, but was defeated by the realities of late 19th-century Merseyside. Nevertheless it is a whole-hearted exercise in re-pro-architecture. Tudor mansions contracted into terraced cottages. Jacobean extravagance cut down to size, and here and there something harking back to the Kentish village. In the middle is the one contribution that only an Edwardian millionaire could have thought of adding to an industrial village - a fine art gallery brimming with 18th-century English painting at its peak, 18th-century French furniture, and some of the best Victorian work to be found on walls anywhere.

Gillian Darley

The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight Village, Merseyside (051 227 5234) Open daily, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire (0625 527468). Open Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm until June 1. Then daily, same times. Adult £2, child £1.30, family ticket £5.30 until June 1. Then adult £2.20, child £1.50, family £6. National Trust members free.

OUTINGS

LIVING CRAFTS 86: Boding, coppicing and loon painting are just three of the many crafts being demonstrated in the grounds and old palace stables at Hatfield this weekend. Others include farriery, lace-making, hatmaking, bookbinding, dollmaking, stained glass painting. Teachers should be available and fringe entertainment includes maypole dancing and Punch & Judy shows. Hatfield House, Hertfordshire (30 62823).

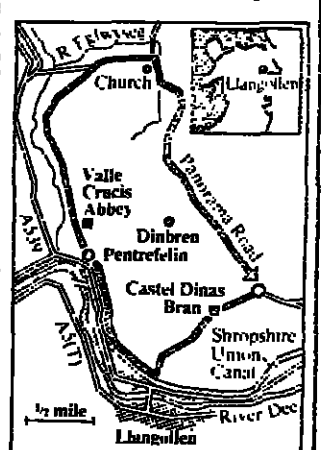
Today, tomorrow, 11am-6pm. Adult £2.75, child £1.50.

BLUEBELL ON PARADE: Annual event at one of the prettiest steam railway centres. Today engines over 100 years old will be working head-to-head, tomorrow coaches will be pulled by some of the more modern engines. The Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Station, near Uckfield East Sussex (082572 2370). Today, first train 11.40am, last 5pm; tomorrow first 10.30am, last 6pm. Adult £2.50 return ticket, child £1.20 return.

WEEKEND WALKS

George Borrow spent more time based in Llangollen than anywhere else on his Wild Wales walk. This circular walk may be started at any suitable place along the route, but here is the most satisfying circuit: From the Panorama road, built for ladies less active than Mrs Borrow to view the splendours of the Dee Valley, climb to the ruined 13th-century Castell Dinas Brân - on a Celtic fort site - and after marvelling at the vista, descend to the edge of the town and follow the canal westwards to Pentrefelin. The bulk of Llangollen lies on the other side of the fine bridge over the Dee, but need not detain us now. The access to the Chain Bridge Hotel is the call to leave the towpath: about 80 yards back along the road, a faint path crosses its way through hush and bracken, keeping to the fence above the cultivated land until the majestic remains of Abaty Glyn y Groes (Vale Crucis Abbey), a 13th-century Cistercian foundation which received Henry VIII's usual attentions. A steep bank across the footbridge leads to a rising path above confiers which in turn gives access to a small road. The mighty cliffs of Eglwysseg atop their scree-strewn slopes form an impressive backdrop. Turn right on to the road, right at the squat little church dedicated to St Mary and follow the Panorama road back past Dinas to return finally to Dinas Brân.

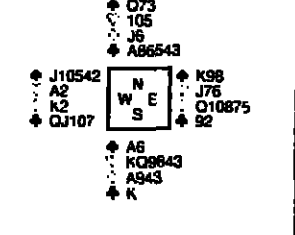
Iain Liddell



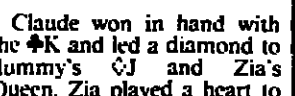
BRIDGE

Suspicious of science

Kenneth Konstam used to say: "Give me winning Rubber bridge players as team mates". Of course, Konnie was an implacable opponent of scientific systems, constantly questioning their merit and scornfully suggesting that "codes" were a poor substitute for judgement. Times may have changed, but when I watch some of our leading Rubber bridge players in action, I see that Konnie's aphorism still holds true. Freddie North, the declarer on the first hand, became disenchanted with the domestic tournament scene some years ago, which was surely Britain's loss. Rubber Bridge Love All Dealer East



Claude won in hand with the ♠K and led a diamond to dummy's ♣J and Zia's ♠Queen. Zia played a heart to his partner's Ace. After two more rounds of hearts, Claude played a low diamond, which West captured with the ♠K. But when West switched to the ♠J, Claude had built up an accurate picture of the unseen hands. He won the spade in hand and ran the trumps, leading to this three card ending, with East to discard.



Zia had to keep his diamonds, so he was forced to release a spade. When Claude played a spade he did not mind who had the ♠K. If it was West, dummy would make the last two tricks. But if, as Claude expected, it was Zia, he would be forced to lead into the diamond tenace.

Jeremy Flint

SUPREME CAT SHOW

Feline version of Crufts with over 1,000 cats entered for various classes. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 7802024). Today, 10.30am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child £1.

LONDON DOLLS HOUSE FESTIVAL

For all addicts of the world of miniature interiors, this is no ordinary festival. It is a selling a wide range of dolls' houses, and miniature textures. Kensington Town Hall, London W8. Further information, Mrs Hamilton (01-448 1898). Tomorrow, 10am-2pm. Tickets £2; after 1pm, children 50p.

Judy Froshaug

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 947

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, May 15, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1X9. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, May 17, 1986.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS: 1 River bed (11) 9 Cross country runner (7) 10 Ice house (5) 11 Deep hole (3) 12 Spoken (4) 13 Sharp stones (4) 17 Artificial (6) 18 Altar (4) 20 Sham (4) 21 Conary state (6) 22 Bacon skin (4) 23 Ballet skirt (4) 25 Tread (3) 28 Fragment (5) 29 Pragmatist (7) 30 Great fire seat (7,4) DOWN: 2 Main artery (5) 3 Home (4) 4 Moan (4) 5 Standard amount (4) 6 Sun rooms (7) 7 Special lampshade (11) 8 At once (4,2,5) 12 Aim (6) 14 Fifth zodiac sign (3) 15 Take for granted (6) 19 Car rear cover (7) 20 Grease (3) 24 Trade group (5) 25 Tournament (4) 26 St Paul's architect (4) 27 Mournful cry (4)

Solution to No 941 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Seismograph 9 Plumage 10 Forgo 11 Rut 13 Raps 16 Hoop 17 Lean-to 18 X-ray 20 Iris 21 Wisdom 22 Moxie 23 Floor 25 SAS 28 Tboose 29 Pennies 30 Dermatology

DOWN: 2 Equip 3 Slam 4 Over 5 Riff 6 ParLOUR 7 Approximate 8 Compass Rose 12 Untidy 14 Sly 15 Patina 19 Awesome 20 Imp 24 Owning 25 Scum 26 Spit 27 Ant

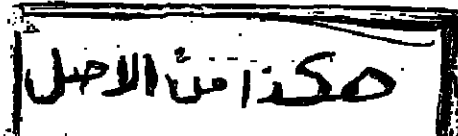
The winners of prize concise No 941 are: Roy Linnell, The Rock Hotel, Porthleven, Cornwall; and C. R. Illingworth, Stanley Road, Stockport.

SOLUTION TO NO 946 ACROSS: 1 Iguaçu 5 Social 8 Sri 9 Troupe 10 Drude 11 Sna 12 Skuld 14 Things 17 Stench 19 Lavalava 22 Oil 24 Rip-off 25 Evince 26 Ill 27 Sentia 28 Yearly DOWN: 2 Great 3 Abstain 4 Asepsis 5 Sidle 6 Crumb 7 Angle 13 Wit 15 Heavenly 16 Gal 17 Shapely 18 Exultia 20 Adopt 21 Affix 23 Local

Name Address

Magimix EGG WHISK EXTRAORDINAIRE FREE. Here's a wonderful opportunity to buy the new Magimix 2000 (or any new Magimix model) and receive this beautifully engineered egg whisk attachment absolutely free! It's superb for meringues, cream and soufflés - yet another great Magimix feature, alongside the powerful 'professional' heavy duty motor (fully guaranteed for 5 years), Sabatier blades, dishwasherproof bowl, unique range of specialised accessories, recipe books to guide and inspire you and Gold Seal Service Guarantee. All the advantages that make the Magimix food processor the one recommended by the world's best cooks. Choose them from 3 sizes, including the new family sized Magimix 2000 at around £79.95. Normal price £8.95. MORE POWER TO BE A SUPERCOOK! Magimix. The power that thinks for itself.

COLLINS DICTIONARIES THE FINES BOOKSHOP CROSSWORD COMPETITION Daily winners of the competition, and the booksellers who supplied their entry forms for the 1st to 7th May are as follows: Karen Singleton, Manchester (W.H. Willshaw Ltd, Manchester) H.C. Niordant, Isle of Man (Bridge Bookshop Ltd, Isle of Man) Joan Ramsey, Belfast (Crane's Bookshop, Belfast) Mrs D. Day, Aberystwyth (Midland Educational Bookshop, Worcester) J.D. Lowe, Warwick (John Gould, Warwick) Mrs Susan Terry, Petersfield (The Fleet Bookshop, Hampshire) COLLINS DICTIONARIES MOVE WITH THE TIMES



Classical records

REVIEW

THE WEEK AHEAD By Peter Waymark



A clearer ring for classic Wagner

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde. Suthaus, Flagstad. Philharmonia/Furtwängler. HMV EX 290684-3 (four LPs, also on CD and cassette). Wagner: Der Ring des Nibelungen. Soloists: Don Giovanni. Soloists: Vienna PO/Furtwängler. HMV EX 290667-3 (three LPs, also on cassette).

There is something presumptuous about recommending recordings that have the classic status of Furtwängler's Wagner: his *Tristan* has held its place as a landmark of the gramophone since 1953, and his *Ring* cycle of the same period immediately established its authority when it was first published in 1972.

After rehearsing them in newly clarified "digital remasterings", one can only advise anyone with the spare cash to do the same. The *Tristan* lives up to its reputation for cogent and deeply important symphonic drama;

the *Ring* interpretation gains much from Furtwängler's willingness to be at once serious and naive, unfolding the great work in massive breaths while at the same time rushing in to colour episodes with a childlike intensity and immediacy of vision.

But renewed acquaintance can also bring doubts. For instance, Ludwig Suthaus does cut a stiff figure as Tristan, and though Kirsten Flagstad was incomparable as Isolde, she was perhaps less incomparable by 1952. It may be the new sound, or it may be the intervening recorded Isolde of Margaret Price and Hildegard Behrens, but the matronliness of Flagstad's performance seems to matter more. What is still thoroughly enjoyable is the young Fischer-Dieskau's feeling Kurwenal.

With the *Ring* recording, the outstanding problem is the Italian orchestra, which can on occasion draw from Furtwängler's slow fire, but which can also sound scrappy or incoherent (I cannot explain the

erratic account of Siegfried's funeral music, for instance, except as motivated by the conductor's despair; and the chorus in this act are pretty terrible too).

On the credit side, there are a great many excellent solo performances: Martha Mödl bending her voice with physical urgency into Bränhilde's line, Ferdinand Frantz imposing authority as Wotan, Josef Greindl sounding out of a spiritual bleakness as Hagen, Sena Jurinae glorious as Gutrune. Nevertheless, it is now clear that this could not be anyone's first choice for a *Ring*; that has to be, as I decided here some while back, Böhm's Bayreuth recording.

In many ways the *Don Giovanni* set, recorded at Salzburg in 1954, raises fewer problems. The Vienna Philharmonic in Mozart is something very different from the RAI Rome Symphony in Wagner, and Furtwängler is able to speak through them much more directly; the scale of his intentions is evident right from the

first wild, crushing chord, which sets out to make the opera a profound event in one's life.

This is not, it need hardly be said, a view of Mozart that accords with current fashion. The tempos are generally slow, to accommodate a big sound and generous phrasing; if anyone tried to reproduce such a performing style today, it could not possibly work, so different is the temper of the times. But this is the great value of this recording, that it can challenge one to respond to the work in a quite other, and surely no less rewarding way.

What the set also offers is a remarkable cast, led by Cesare Siepi's darkly-alluring Don, neatly balanced by Otto Edelmann's swifter, lighter Leporello. Elisabeth Schwarzkopf is the wonderful Elvira, but Elisabeth Grummer (also Furtwängler's Freia) is by no means outshone as Donna Anna. One catches Walter Berry in fresh youth as Masetto.

Paul Griffiths

Clarke's ear for the art of dangerous laughter

Roy Clarke's comedy lives dangerously, eschewing the traditional props of plot and incident and depending almost entirely on the inconsequential mouthings of his more or less dotty characters. The formula can work brilliantly, as it does in *The Last of the Summer Wine*, or it can totter to disaster.

The latest Clarke series, *The Clairvoyant* (BBC2, Thurs, 9.30pm), could on the evidence of the first episode go either way. The Clarke signature is immediately evident, in the leisurely pace and idiosyncratic dialogue and the refusal to let the storyline dominate.

The central character (played by Roy Kinnear) is a used car salesman who thinks he can foretell the future. Sandra Dickinson, of the shrill American voice you either love or hate, is his girl friend and Hugh Lloyd, once a marvellous stooge for Tony Hancock, the petrol pump attendant.

The producer, Alan J. W. Bell, places the Kinnear-Dickinson exchanges in the tradition of Burns and Allen. The comparison is not immediately apparent. But if *The Clairvoyant* is not an obvious ratings topper, nor when it started and indeed for many years afterwards, was *The Last of the Summer Wine*.

The trouble with alternative comedy, whether practised by The Young Ones or *Spitting*



Roy Clarke: too early to tell

TELEVISION

Image, is that too often the desire to shock overrides the more difficult and basic function of comedy, which is to be funny. To utter rude words on *Wogan* is not enough.

These thoughts are prompted by *Naked Video* (BBC2, Mon, 9.30-10pm), which has the same production team as *A Kick Up the Eighties* and performers who cut their teeth on an award-winning series for Radio Scotland, reinforced by John Sparkes and Helen Lederer from the London cabaret circuit.

Targets include the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, Cilla Black and the Sinclair CS tricycle. Among the show's

running characters are a raucous Glasgow spiv and the owner of a nearly bald pate trying to make the most of his few remaining strands. Volgarly is much to the fore, sometimes to hilarious effect as in a sketch about Mr Kipling's other times not.

Though the alternative comedians would be reluctant to admit it, the most successful comedy is often the least ambitious. There a lot to be said for taking a simple, even cliché idea, and sticking with it. Thus *Sorry!*, back for a new series tonight (BBC1, 7.30pm), with Ronnie Corbett as the middle-aged librarian still firmly tied to his mother's apron strings.

In *The Best Years of Your Life* (BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.15pm) a 17-year-old boy who wanted to be a footballer is coming to terms with the fact that he is dying of cancer. So, in their different ways, are his brother and his father. Written by 20-year-old Clive Jemman, himself suffering from cancer, the play manages the considerable feat of being neither depressing nor maudlin. The boy is played by Lee Whitlock, David Warner's son in *Hold the Back Page*.

Three burning social issues—test-tube babies, surrogacy and aids—are aired in *Society, Science and Sex* (ITV, Mon to Wed, 10.30-11.30pm). The programmes bring together experts in the various fields.

Best side story

Bernstein: Symphonies 1-2. Ludwig/Foss/Israel PO/Bernstein. DG 415 984-2 (1 CD, also LP and cassette). Bernstein: Songfest. Chichester Psalms. National SO/Israel PO/Bernstein. DG 415 985-2 (1 CD, also LP and cassette). Bernstein: Divertimento. Hall, Meditations, On the Town. Rimpal/Rostropovich/Israel PO/Bernstein. DG 415 986-2 (1 CD, also LP and cassette). Bernstein: Mass. Original Cast/Bernstein. CBS M2P 42258 (2 LPs, also cassette). Bernstein/Stravinsky/Brubeck: Jazz works. Goodman/Columbia Jazz Ensemble/New York PO. CBS MP 39768 (1 LP, also cassette).

Leonard Bernstein's current high profile in Britain has prompted much reissuing of earlier recordings, generally concentrating on this polymath musician's more "serious" compositions. He once defined his entire output as being about "the crisis of our century, a crisis of faith".

The First Symphony (1942), for example, is an obvious early manifestation of this search for God. Entitled "Jeremiah", it is steeped in Hebrew chant from its brooding, neo-Mahlerian opening to its soothing finale, setting the *Lamentations* (sung with a potent mixture of sensuality and conviction by Christa Ludwig). The work is very much a symphonic child of its time; indeed, its consolatory ending in some ways resembles Tippett's oratorio of the same period.

The "loss of faith" problem is more subtly approached in the Second Symphony through reference to the Auden poem which gives the work its title: *The Age of Anxiety*. Unfortunately, the parts I find most attractive—like the slick, jazzy *Masque* movement—are the very bits supposed to represent pointless and frenetic social activity. Conversely the passages evoking rebirth and spiritual hope sound disconcertingly similar to film-scores like *The*



Leonard Bernstein: from God to Broadway and rock gospel

Ten Commandments. Another American composer, Lukas Foss, plays the important concertante piano part superbly, and in both works the Israel Philharmonic performs creditably.

The *Chichester Psalms* recording is disappointing, chiefly because the balance between instruments and voices is frequently awry. The Vienna Youth Choir rarely administers an antidotal cutting-edge to the rather sugary melodies, and the boy entrusted with the big Psalm 23 solo wavers a little in pitch.

Yet the disc is worth buying for the 1977 work *Songfest*, commissioned from Bernstein for the American Bicentenary (he was late finishing it). Setting 12 American poems for six singers and orchestra, the *Songfest* is a tour-de-force of vocal eclecticism. Its parodies of hymns, barbershop and scat-singing are even more impressive than its "sincere" numbers, though the deliberately naive setting of Whitman's *To what you said...* (a homosexual lyric, suppressed in his day) is stunning, especially when graced by Donald Gramm's warm tone.

Divertimento is a similarly virtuosic compilation of allusions, mimicry and puns, written to celebrate the Boston Symphony Orchestra's centenary (hence its somewhat wearying use of the mickidic formality B-C). On this live recording the Israel Philharmonic is not ideally idiomatic in the dance numbers, but it gives full-blooded treatment to the finale: a march called *The BSO Forever* which, de-

spite its Sousa-ish name, cruelly and brilliantly parodies *Radetzky*. Elsewhere, too, there is much entertainment. Halli is an expressive, miniature flute concerto; extracts from *Mass* have been transcribed to show off Rostropovich's most soulful qualities; and the suite from *On the Town* (including brassy treatment of "New York, New York") is the quintessence of Broadway Bernstein. If you loved *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* you will undoubtedly thrill to Bernstein's *Mass*. It is easily the most sophisticated and exciting of the rock-gospel school.

Richard Morrison

Team with a touch of class

Bizet: *La Jolie Fille de Perth*. Anderson/Kraus/Quilico; New Philharmonic Orch./Pretra. EMI EX 270283 (3 records). Cas. EX 270288 (2 TCs). Weber: *Euryanthe*. Norman/Hunter/Gedda/Krause; Dresden Staatskapelle/Janowski. EMI EX 2606983 (3 records).

A good quarter of a century separates the birth dates of the young American soprano, Jane Anderson, and the tenor Alfredo Kraus. But at the moment they are making Paris fight for tickets to hear them in Donizetti's *La Fille du régiment*.

And together they are teamed again in this month's cassette record of another Bizet: *La Jolie Fille de Perth* in which, if there is any justice, they should have an equal success. Bizet's opera, first heard at Christmas 1867, has been kept from more than the occasional airing in the theatre by its sprawling and inconsequential libretto.

Just as Hollywood in the Forties was in the habit of buying up novel rights and then using nothing but the title, so it was with Bizet's librettists who took Sir Walter Scott's *The Fair Maid of Perth* and then junked the plot.

They served up instead a tale of a smith (called, of course, Smith) who fashions a golden rose for his beloved, Catherine (Smith is a Rosenkavalier long before Strauss and Hofmannsthal came together). Catherine tosses it away in a fit of pique; accusations of infidelity surely follow until all is resolved happily to the notes of the *Serenade*, which the late Heddie Nash made one of his party pieces on the old Home Service.

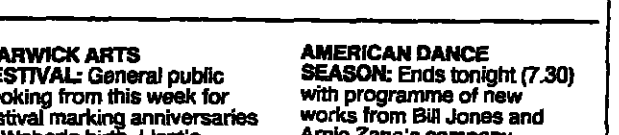
Those who hear Alfredo Kraus sing it, with his customary style and mellifluousness, in this new recording may well be in for a surprise. The score has been considerably cleaned up. The *Serenade*, "A la voix", is one of despair rather than wailing. And there is quite a bit of melancholy in the score: the drinking song of the apprentice Ralph (excellently taken

by Jose Van Dam) is full of dark thoughts. It is only when the wicked Duke of Rothsay (a high baritone role, which draws a performance of great distinction from Cino Quilico) raises his glass that spirits rise, as well as fall down the gullet.

Catherine, who finally comes to her senses like Elvira in *I puritani* when she hears her favourite air, is a pallid role which needs all Jane Anderson's bravura singing to bring it to life. This *Jolie Fille* has through and through a cast of the highest quality, which make one hope an opera house will try and give it a revival of equal distinction.

The orchestral sound is less satisfactory, at least on the cassette version, with a distant and occasionally boomy acoustic. Georges Pretre gets the players going in the Bohemians—all the best songs are in Act II—best elsewhere he is too remote.

The sound is not of the best either in *Euryanthe*, but that was recorded back in 1975.



Alfredo Kraus: hitting high note

The hero Adolar has killed the fearful serpent which threatened them both, but then abandons his Euryanthe. Nicolai Gedda is somewhat stretched as Adolar; graceful passages are followed by notes which could—and should—have been re-recorded. But there are powerful contributions from the villains, Lysistrat, Count de Beaulieu, and Eglantine, sung by Tom Krause and Rita Hunter. Marek Janowski shows a skilled hand with the orchestra, but even in this digital remastering there is a lack of richness.

John Higgins

Quality on a shoestring



The other side of the camera: Melanie Mayron in *Girlfriends*

Claudia Weill's first feature, *Girlfriends* (BBC2, tomorrow, 11.05pm-12.35am) is another reminder that good films do not necessarily depend on large budgets and glamorous stars. Indeed much of the quality of *Girlfriends* derives precisely from the absence of such supposed advantages.

Weill made *Girlfriends* in 1978 when she was in her early thirties after a promising career in television and documentary, and thus added her name to the still small list of woman directors. Appropriately, *Girlfriends* is about female relationships, explored with a woman's insight.

The setting is Manhattan, where Susan Weinblatt, just out of college, scrapes a living photographing weddings and bar mitzvahs and has a relationship with a middle-aged married rabbi. But Susan's emotional prop is her flatmate, Anne, and when Anne moves out to get married, Susan feels betrayed and insecure.

RECOMMENDED

The Pink Panther (1963): Peter Sellers as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau in the first and best of the long-running series (BBC1, today, 10.05am-noon).

Rose of Washington Square (1939): Al Jolson and some of his finest songs set against a fictionalized biopic of Broadway star Fanny Brice (Channel 4, today, 2-3.35pm).

Freud: The Secret Passion (1962): The early career of the great psychoanalyst, broodingly played by Montgomery Clift (Channel 4, today, 11pm-1.15am).

Roman Holiday (1953): Romance in Rome for newspaperman Gregory Peck and princess Audrey Hepburn (BBC1, tomorrow, 3.55-5.50pm).

Albert R.N. (1953): Anthony Steel and Jack Warner fooling the Germans with a dummy in POW escape story (Channel 4, tomorrow, 10.30pm-12.10am).

The Angelic Conversation (1985): Images by Derek Jarman for 14 Shakespeare sonnets, read by Judi Dench (Channel 4, Mon, 11pm-12.25am).

Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975): Peter Weir's fine Australian film about the mysterious fate of Victorian schoolchildren (BBC2, Tues, 9-10.50pm).

The Tiffeld Thunderbolt (1952): Cossy Ealing comedy with Stanley Holloway leading the light to save a rural railway (BBC1, Wed, 6-7.20pm).

*denotes first British television showing

FILMS ON TV

Her career is getting nowhere and her private life goes from one emotional crisis after another. She picks up and drops a young university teacher and then does the same to a lesbian dancer. Anne, for her part, finds marriage stifling, accuses Susan of being selfish and insensitive and resents her apparent independence.

Such a bald summary cannot do justice to the intelligence and freshness of the film. To start with, Weill uses New York as much more than a backdrop. The city, with its size and anonymity, compounds Susan's insecurity, trapping her in an unfriendly world of flats and offices. *Girlfriends* adroitly blends the emotional landscape with the physical one.

But the emotional territory remains at the heart of the film and here a key point is the character of Susan. The casting is important. Were she played by an established Hollywood star, the audience's reading of the performance would inevitably be coloured by that actress and her roles. That Susan is played by an unknown, Melanie Mayron, means that actress and role are to all intents indivisible.

The further point is that Susan/Mayron is not the conventional Hollywood glamour queen. On the contrary she is on the plump side, has bad teeth and wears glasses. A film which has been compared with *Girlfriends* is *An Unmarried Woman*, another study of a woman alone in the Big Apple. But here the credibility of the central character was compromised by Jill Clayburgh's assertive star performance. You never felt for a minute that she would be unable to cope. Mayron, on the other hand, comes across as vulnerable as she looks.

A passion for trains that earned millions

There can be few British children who have grown up over the past 40 years untouched by the adventures of Thomas the Tank Engine. But they are probably fairly ignorant about the stories' creator. He is the splendidly-named Wilbert Vere Awdry, an English clergyman with a passion for steam trains. So, when his small son caught measles, it was not surprising that daddy should decide to cheer him up by telling him railway stories.

Scribbled on the backs of old circulars, the exploits of Thomas and his friends were intended for family consumption only. It was Mrs Awdry who persuaded her husband to get them published and, since the first story appeared in 1945, the series has sold nearly eight million copies.

Now 74 and retired, the Revd Awdry reflects on his elevation to best-sellerdom in *The Thomas the Tank Engine Man* (Radio 4, Tues, 8.30-9 pm). He is plainly delighted by the stories' success, and amazed that today's children should want to read about the long-vanished age of steam.

Another age long gone, that of the British Empire, is evoked in *Two Superior Persons* (Radio 4, tomorrow, 10.15-11 pm). The title refers to Lord Kitchener and Lord George Curzon, and the programme charts their power struggle between 1903 and 1905.

Curzon, one of the most gifted men of his generation, became Viceroy of India at the age of 39. He invited Kitch-

QUALITY ON A SHOESTRING

ner to become Commander-in-Chief of the Army, unaware that Kitchener would try to ruin him and put India under military control.

The battle between these formidable men is told largely in their own words, taken from contemporary documents. Alec McCowen plays Curzon and Jeremy Kemp is Kitchener.

The 600th anniversary of the signing of a friendship treaty between England and Portugal is marked by Radio 4 tomorrow with *It's Your World* (12.10-1 pm)—in which the guest is Portugal's prime minister António Cavaco Silva—and *The Oldest Ally* (9.30 pm), the first of three Robert Graham programmes looking at Portugal's past, present and future.

Nevel Shute's *No Highway* is the new Radio 4 Classic Serial (tomorrow, 7-8 pm) in a three-part dramatization by Brian Gear. Norman Bowler plays the RAF buffon who discovers metal fatigue in the tailpiece of a new airliner.

Juliet Ace, a playwright always worth listening to, is the author of *Jonathan George Can Walk on Water* (Radio 4, Tues, 3-4 pm). Jonathan (Peter Jeffrey) returns to his birthplace, a West Country fishing port, to discover that its former shabby charm has been transformed into a gleaming film set.

FIRST CHANCE

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL: Booking opens Mon for programme including rare staging of Shakespeare/Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, recitals to mark the centenary of Liszt's death; and Masters of the Kings Music and London Early Music Group playing music from Elizabeth I to George II. Also Medeiros and Lindsay Quartets, Chris Barber's Jazz Band, Acker Bilk and Jacques Loussier, plus full festival fringe. Personal booking May 19. St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4 (01-236 2801).

HALLÉ PROMS: Season includes Mozart and Beethoven and American evenings, with soloists Peter Donohoe, Ronald Frost and Kathryn Slater. June 17-July 8. Kathryn Slater Free Trade Manchester opens today. Hallé, 30 Cross Street, Manchester M2 (061 834 1712).

OPERA NORTH: Season opens May 27 with major restaging of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Gounod's *Faust*, and new production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Performances at Leeds, Nottingham, Manchester and York. May-July.

Leeds Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532440871).

ROYAL OPERA: Personal and phone booking open for June/July. New productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Fidelio*, plus *Così fan Tutti* and *Eugene Onegin*.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 48 Floral Street, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

WILMSLOW SPRING FESTIVAL: Phone booking from this week for first Wilmslow festival, which celebrates the Best of British and features George Mally and John Chilton's *Feenwarmers*, the Madrigal String Quartet and John Bingham's *Garriol Woolf*, and Dobcross

BRASS BAND in open-air concert, May 29-June 1. Box Office, Leisure Centre, Rectory Fields, Wilmslow, Cheshire (0625-633789).

SUMMER CATHEDRALS FESTIVAL: Booking open for new festival of concerts at 24 cathedrals, featuring London Festival Orchestra with cathedral choirs, and Janet Baker in gala performance at Ripon Cathedral. Venues include Rochester, Bristol, Paisley, Portsmouth. May 31-Oct 4. Central Box Office and Information: PO Box 1, St Albans, AL1 4ED (072737799).

SHAKESPEARE OPEN AIR THEATRE: Booking open for 1986 season with productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Shew's Arms and the Man*; 25 sonnets will be spoken each day by company members. May 30-Sep 6. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 (01-935 6756).

WARWICK ARTS FESTIVAL: General public booking from this week for festival marking anniversaries of Weber's birth, Liszt's death and 60th birthday of Richard Rodney Bennett. New features include opera (by Cameo) and Saturday morning coffee concerts. Artists include Richard Rodney Bennett, Sam Houston Choral Society from America, Anthony Goldstone, Kathryn Stott and Caroline Dale. There will be performances of *Twelfth Night* at Warwick Castle, July 2-13. Festival Office, Northgate, Warwick. (0926-492466).

LAST CHANCE

BERNSTEIN FESTIVAL: Ends this weekend with performance of his *Mass* at Guildhall School of Music (tonight, 7.30), and charity concert tomorrow. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Information 01-638 4141.

AMERICAN DANCE SEASON: Ends tonight (7.30) with programme of new works from Bill Jones and Arnie Zane's company, Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Anthony Page's production, with Jessica Turner. Finishes today (2.15 and 7.45 pm). Lyttelton Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252).

TORCH SONG TRILOGY: Last performances today (2 and 7 pm) of Harvey Fierstein's play, in production by Robert Alan Ackerman. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC1 (01-636 3878).

DAVID HOCKNEY LITHOGRAPHS: Vivid colour and photo-collages based on Kenneth Tyler's new lithography techniques. Ends tomorrow. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS ON SONG: Valerie Masterson, ex-D'Yvy Carte and now one of the Coliseum's favourite sopranos...



BOOKS STAGE SECRETS: Laurence Olivier gives an inside view of his profession, ruminating on his successes and failures...



ROCK RISING SON: Julian Lennon may have his father's voice, nose and leather jacket...



THEATRE DOUBLE TROUBLE: Roger Rees is the star and co-author with Eric Ellice of Double Trouble...



TELEVISION PURPLE PROSE: Alice Walker, whose novel The Colour Purple has been filmed by Steven Spielberg...



GALLERIES IN THE STYLE: Cecil Beaton's unique contribution to 20th-century style is reflected in a first major retrospective...

TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

DALLIANCE: Tom Stoppard's version of Arthur Schnitzler's Liebel, directed by Peter Wood. Tragic love in turn-of-the-century Vienna...

OPENINGS

HE DIED WITH HIS EYES OPEN (18): Entertaining French thriller with a fine performance by Michel Serrault...

OUT OF TOWN

EXETER: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Dale Wasserman's play of the Ken Kesey novel set in a mental institution...

CONCERTS

MUSIC MAKERS: Richard Hickox conducts the LSO and choir in Weber's Oberon Overture, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto...

FILMS

OPENINGS

HE DIED WITH HIS EYES OPEN (18): Entertaining French thriller with a fine performance by Michel Serrault...

SELECTED

VAGABONDE (15): Agnès Varda's bleak but compelling account of a teenage wanderer's last weeks...

CONCERTS

MUSIC MAKERS: Richard Hickox conducts the LSO and choir in Weber's Oberon Overture, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto...

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Last performance (7 pm tonight) of Les Contes d'Hoffman, Then Tosca on Tues and Fri (7.30 pm)...

ROCK AND JAZZ

OPENINGS

INDIAN MINIATURES: Tiny, fine, 18th and 19th century paintings. Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington St, Cambridge...

SELECTED

IN TANDEM: Sculptures by 20th century painters such as Picasso and Matisse. Whitechapel Art Gallery...

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Last performance (7 pm tonight) of Les Contes d'Hoffman, Then Tosca on Tues and Fri (7.30 pm)...

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: MacMillan triple bill Concerto, Le Balais de la fee, and Anastasia. Covent Garden (01-240 1066)

PHOTOGRAPHY

OPENINGS

DAVID REDFERN: One of the masters of jazz photography whose career spans 25 years from the early days of television's Ready Steady Go...

SELECTED

ROYAL BALLET: MacMillan triple bill Concerto, Le Balais de la fee, and Anastasia. Covent Garden (01-240 1066)

DANCE

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OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Last performance (7 pm tonight) of Les Contes d'Hoffman, Then Tosca on Tues and Fri (7.30 pm)...

An actor at the heart of his art



Tom Hulce, complete with the stubble he hopes will age him

Tom Hulce has discarded the powder and patch of Amadeus for a contemporary brat pack uniform of black leather jacket, tennis shirt and clean white sneakers. He sat a shade easily in his rented Knightsbridge flat...

ARTS DIARY

Unholy writ

With a month to go before it has to respond, the BBC has yet to make a reply to the staggering £57.16 million writ it has received as a result of ducking out of satellite broadcasting.

Bombing out

The roll-call of Americans avoiding these shores because of possible terrorist attack grows daily. The latest, surprisingly, is the classical and jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, 24.

Bennett on

Jill Bennett's idea of bringing off-Broadway to London's West End will give a much-needed shot in the arm to fringe theatre. Her Off the Avenue production company will open up at the little-known Boulevard Theatre next month.

Off the Boil

In three months' time the Victoria and Albert Museum will remove a thorn from its side: the Boilerhouse Project. After four years of unconvincing exhibitions under the playful directorship of Stephen Bayley...

Christopher Wilson

It is got turn flash the atie on Mar that our O mail oper devt furn a ste subj bung set o custs to 6 room furn tried spec but sepa the Furr N T cor T har tht. asr ang des of cor eas me

Williams 'could win 25 seats'

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 9: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this evening attended Queen Mary College's Thanksgiving Service at St Michael's Church, Cornhill. Etc and afterwards attended a Reception at the Draper's Hall.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (the Lord Flowers), the Reverend Canon (the Reverend) David Burton-Evans and the Principal of the College (Mrs James Meater).

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord Innes) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Fiji and back to New Zealand to his chancery on behalf of Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon opened Bible House, the Headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in Swindon.

Lady Angela Oswald, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as Colonel-in-Chief 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, was present this evening at a Cocktail Party given by Past and serving Officers of the Regiment and of the Northumberland Hussars, at Meldon Park, Morpeth.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival at Newcastle Airport by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Northumberland (The Viscount Ridley).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Lady Glenconner.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 9: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester today opened the

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.T. Forster and Miss M.C. Rumball. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Forster, of Wembley Park, Middlesex, and Majella, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.F. Rumball, of Shepperton, Middlesex.

Mr R.A. Graham and Miss M.C. Rumball. The engagement is announced between Robert Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs A. Graham, of Headington, Oxford, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cordington, of Barnes, London.

Mr A. Hamilton and Miss G. Fremi. The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Hamilton, of Thurso, Caithness, and Gwyneth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Wladyslaw Fremi, of Warsaw, Poland.

Mr M.W. Hollis and Miss A.J. de Selincourt. The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hollis, and Mrs Hilary Hollis, of Stowling, Kent, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony de Selincourt, of Chobham, Surrey.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Richard Adams, 66; Sir John Ainsley, 80; Sir David Brown, 82; Mr Trevor Clay, 50; Lord Collinson, 77; Miss Monica Dickens, 71; Mr J.R. Dugdale, 83; Major-General Edward Furdon, 71; Sir Edward Gardner, MP, 74; Professor Alan Gemmill, 73; Sir Roger Jackson, 73; Lord Justice Kelly, 69; Sir Ernest Levy, 89; Mr Richard Lewis, 72; Miss Maureen Lipton, 40; Sir William Lithgow, 52; Lord Justice Mustill, 53; Sir David Orr, 64; Sir John Patten, 81; Mr Bruce Raymond, 43; Mr Manuel Samana, 48; Lord Smith, 72; the Duke of Sutherland, 71; Mr Denis Thatcher, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Thistlethorpe, 63; Brigadier Dame Margot Turner, 76.

TOMORROW: Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, 57; Sir Edgar Beck, 75; Mr Irving Berlin, 98; Dr Rhodes Boyson, MP, 61; Sir John Compton Miller, 86; Mr Salvador, 81; Sir Percy Faulkner, 79; Miss Martha Graham, 90; Sir Ernest Harrison, 60; Professor Antony Hewish, 62; Mr Justice Hollis, 59; Sir Robert Hunt, 68; Sir Albert Kennard, 76; Professor W.M. Medlicott, 86; Brigadier Joan Moriarty, 63; Sir Ian Percival, OC, MP, 65; Mr Mike Stearn, 35; Sir Ronald Swayne, 68; His Hon Montague Woodhouse, 69.

London and Kent Artillery

Colonel D. J. McLellan presided at a 'dinner' held at the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich, by the London and Kent Artillery yesterday. Brigadier P. D. Orchard-Lisle and Sir William Clark, MP, also spoke.

Service luncheon

The annual dinner of the Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Chaney presided.

Service dinners

Royal Naval College, Greenwich Commander T. C. Jones, Commander of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, presided at a ladies' guest night dinner held yesterday in the Painted Hall. Commandant Vona McBride, was the principal guest.

Facilities Officers' Club

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night at the Council House, Birmingham, by the Facilities Officers' Club, Royal Warwickshire. Major-General J. C. Reilly was in the chair.

Making amends to a genius

Karl Barth (1886-1968), author of some of the greatest theological works of the twentieth century, has been unfortunate in the manner of his recognition in England. The work which still does the most to prevail the view of his theology is the translation by Sir Edwin Hoskyns from the original German of his *Commentary on Romans*, the "bible" on the background of the theologians who so influenced the course of Protestant theology after the First World War.

The powerful and historical paradoxes of this book are bewildering outside the context of its first production. Due appreciation of his genius has also not been helped by the essentially religious nature of the English race who must be distinguished in this respect from other parts of the British nation. The English are impatient of theory, and are therefore disinclined to labour through volumes of dogmatics.

There is, too, the problem of the assessment of a genius to whom we are still close. Yet nearly 70 years after the *Commentary on Romans*, the mist that begins to clear is set. Karl Barth, born 100 years ago today, was a man of his time. Yet he was also a genius, able to see a little further than many and to offer new insights into the ways of God with mankind. But what was his time, and what did he give to it?

It was, first of all, a century in which Europe, emerging from the self-confidence of its recent past, experienced fragmentation and the first to be aware of this change, and his early writings revealed him as a new voice amidst the increasing tiredness of his teachers. But he was more than simply a reaction against the past, as is sometimes suggested.

Readers of Eberhard Busche's biography will be struck by the fact that all of Barth's writing was a creative response to the turmoil of modern Europe, no where more than in his early and

Luncheon

HM Government Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was host at a luncheon held at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of Federal Councillor Dr Kurt Furgler, Head of the Swiss Department of Public Economy.

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Dinners

Corps of Queen's Messengers Mr Brian Austin, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mrs Austin, were the guests of the Messengers' Club at a dinner held at the Bromley Court Hotel last night. Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Crump,

OBITUARY

SHERPA TENZING

Heroic conquest of Everest



Sherpa Tenzing, GM, who, with Sir Edmund Hillary, stood as the first men on the summit of Mount Everest on May 29, 1953, died in Darjeeling yesterday. He was 72.

A porter by calling a mountaineer by choice, his invincible spirit took him to Everest's 29,028 ft. summit and the winning of one of the great prizes of adventure.

Tenzing Norgay was born at Tami, on the Tibetan side of Everest, in the summer of 1914 and, lacking a precise recorded date, adopted as his birthday the day of his triumph, May 29.

His boyhood was spent as a herdsman pasturing his father's yak on the high slopes, long nursing an ambition to climb what he knew as *Chomolungma*. "The mountain so high no bird can fly over it."

At the age of 18, he made his way to Darjeeling. There he was employed as a coolie until the Himalayan Club noticed him and engaged him as a porter.

He had hopes of being taken on as a porter for the 1933 Everest expedition. But he had no certificate of previous experience, and even though he cut off his pigtail, he was turned down as too young.

At last, in 1935, Eric Shipton gave him his chance and he was added him to a band of veterans assembled for a reconnaissance. He went to 22,000 ft. on the North Col, which was as far as the expedition went, and gave him the chance of seeing mountaineering techniques.

He earned himself a place on Hugh Ruttledge's full-scale Everest attempt of 1936; and, with H. W. Tilman in 1938, the last expedition before the war, he carried loads up to the then record height of 27,200 ft., earning himself the Tiger Medal. But 14 years were to pass before his next real chance.

During the war, he served as a guide with the Chitral Scouts and as an Indian Army ski instructor. But he returned to the mountains in 1945 with an expedition to the Hindukush.

Tenzing was on Everest seven times in all: four times on the north face, including a freakish adventure with the solo climber Earl Denman in 1948, and three times on the south after Nepal opened her frontiers in 1949.

Dr Wyss-Dunant, leader of two Swiss expeditions in 1952, enrolled him as a climber as well as employing him as a sirdar, or expedition headman, and in the spring attempt Tenzing and Raymond Lambert came within a few hundred feet of the summit.

The ultimate success came the following year with the British expedition under its leader, Colonel J. C. Hunt.

The first attempt on the summit, planned for May 23, failed and there were fears that

GROUP CAPTAIN W. T. H. NICHOLS

Dutch and fragmented British Forces, without aircraft or proper equipment, were surrendered to the Japanese. Nichols led a small signals unit to break out of the enemy circle, but was captured after a determined 220-mile run.

As a result, he found himself incarcerated at Soekaboei as a senior British officer in charge of 200 British, Australian and American servicemen.

Despite their imprisonment in appalling conditions, there was an atmosphere of unity, purpose and order which stood out in bold relief to the much bigger Dutch prisoner-of-war camp which surrounded it. This was due to Nichols and the unit he had brought with him, and the example they set.

Under his inspiration as prison commander, the camp became not a place of negation

but a school in the best sense of the word: practical, self-educating and, above all, an emancipation of spirit.

For some three and a half years, from Soekaboei to Tjimahi Bandung, Batavia, and Bandung again for the last, most critical, dangerous and testing of all our phases of imprisonment, Nichols' command never flagged.

In the cast-iron grip of a ruthless enemy, so unpredictable that every minute was a moment almost of life and death in balance, Nichols possessed a quality of sustained and unwavering physical and moral courage.

What these fellow prisoners say and how they speak of him will be as a memorial to his wife, three daughters and three grand-children.

Services tomorrow: Sunday after Ascension Day

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- ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL:**

7 guilty in Sun writer protest

Seven students at Bristol University could face expulsion after being found guilty yesterday of disrupting lectures during mass pickets against a member of the teaching staff.

Nine others were acquitted by a special disciplinary committee, and two more students had charges against them dropped before their cases were heard.

The University Disciplinary Committee of six senior academics and three students had been convened for the first time in a decade by Sir John Kingman, the vice-chancellor, after three mass demonstrations in March and April against Professor John Viney.

The pickets claimed that he is racist, sexist and anti-working class in the weekly column he writes for *The Sun*, owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch. The students could face measures ranging from a simple reprimand to full-scale expulsion. They will have an opportunity to make speeches of mitigation before the committee passes sentence next week.

Mr Justice Mann, sitting in the High Court, gave permission yesterday for an east London coach business to challenge a decision of Newham council not to employ the firm, which ferries police to and from the Wapping print works of Mr Murdoch.

Lacey's, of East Ham, which claims that it has been denied council contracts since the decision last February, wants a court order preventing the council from refusing to consider employing the firm.

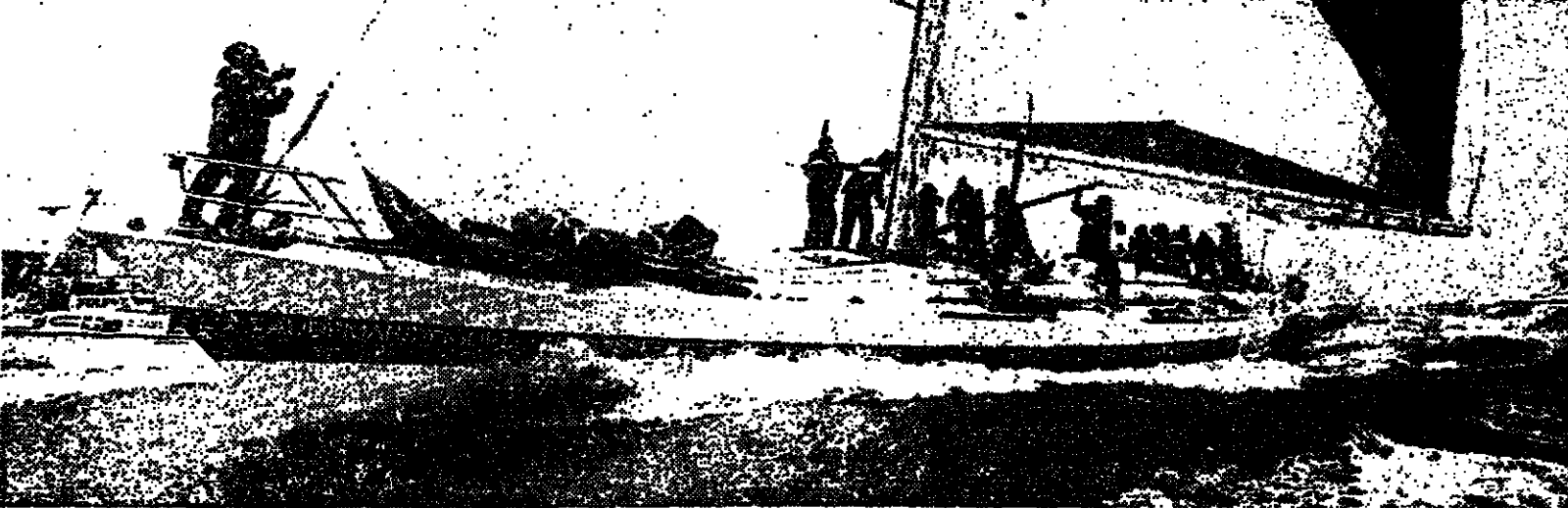
Police officers had spent an estimated 350,000 man hours at the Wapping print works since the start of the dispute. Mr Giles Shaw, a Home Office minister, disclosed in a Commons written answer last night (Richard Evans writes).

The number of police officers held available for duty at the plant varied from a minimum of 25 to a maximum of about 1,800, "depending on the current or likely public order situation", he said.

Swiss break round the world record



Skipper Pierre Fehlmann holding aloft a plaque presented to the first yacht home, and (right) being thrown into the sea by his jubilant crew.



The UBS Switzerland crossing the finishing line off Southsea after her eight-month voyage (Photographs: John Voos and Jonathan Eastland).

The first yacht home in the Whitbread round the world race arrived yesterday at a champagne welcome and a soaking for the skipper. After berthing at Gosport, Hampshire, the triumphant crew of UBS Switzerland threw their skipper, Pierre Fehlmann, aged 43, into the water.

When the Swiss yacht crossed the finishing line off Southsea after 27,000 miles and nearly eight months away, she broke the previous record for the race by more than two days.

The 16-man crew hugged one another and boats heeled a welcome as the berthed. Champagne sprayed and wives, girl friends and children of the crew members climbed on board to welcome them.

Later, Mr Fehlmann said that during the last leg of the race, he had given a false position, saying he was further east than he actually was. That would appear to explain why another of the yachts in the race, Atlantic Privateer, followed a more easterly course than the others.

During the last leg the yachts are encouraged to have daily radio chats. A spokesman for the race organizers said if a protest was received an independent committee would hold an inquiry. The Swiss skipper said the crew had listened to the music of Simon Le Bon's group Duran Duran on tape during the voyage. Mr Le Bon's yacht

Letter from Warsaw

Poland displays its muscle

It was the fourth Sunday after Easter, the Polish churches were full. And a cloud of nuclear fall-out, as yet unannounced, was drifting towards the country; hardly the time, one might have thought, to take one's clothes off in public.

Ian, Marek and Brigitte, the Czechs and the Swedes, the Belgians and the Britons had absolutely no inhibitions. Sticky with an oil that smelled of coconuts and shone like furniture varnish, they paraded their near-nakedness or rather - because since the Second Vatican Council Latin is the language exclusively of bodybuilders - their detroids, their pectorals, biceps and quadriceps. It was a particularly good day for pectorals.

The European Bodybuilding Championships, yet another milestone in Poland's international rehabilitation, were held in the Towar stadium in Warsaw which contrived to be simultaneously hot and draughty. A Scandinavian sneezed and all the detroids and biceps quiver in sympathy. He is in the heaviest category (won incidentally by Mr Ian Dewe from Britain) which means that a cannibal, sticking to the Polish monthly meat ration, could survive almost a year solely on the man's ballooned muscles.

Bodybuilders eat well, talk a lot about food. Ewa Bondar, one of the Polish team, lured into the sport by her muscled boyfriend, swigs her granulated milk at strict intervals. Other Polish bodybuilders make friends with vegetarians and use their meat coupons to double their protein intake.

It is all a bit odd, a bit pagan. Pumping iron behind the Iron Curtain is a relatively new development. In the Stalinist years it was regarded as decadent, capitalist narcissism. Lifting weights was acceptable, as was putting the shot. Muscles were a good thing ideologically, but only as long as they actually did something. Attitudes are changing but the Soviet

Union, Bulgaria, East Germany and Hungary are still only observers in the International Federation of Body Builders (IFBB). Even in Poland it has been difficult to establish a special status for the iron-pumpers.

The clubs often put up with abysmal conditions and the Hercules Club in Warsaw has to function out of a cellar. Even so there are 30,000 bodybuilders in Polish clubs and the same number working out at home.

Some spectators at the contests were remarkably professional. A retired muscleman complained: "What my colleagues and I used to achieve in five years, some of these people want to do in a single year." He thinks that some might be using "chemistry" to help.

In the main, though, the audience is more prurient than professional. Binoculars change hands during the female line-up, though in the heavier categories it is sometimes difficult to assess gender: all muscles have been developed to their maximum potential and sex distinctions blur.

On top of the bodies, barely relevant to the competition, are heads. These display choices worried features, insurance winks perhaps, concentrating on a particularly complex claim.

Their faces may be anxious but their bodies are a confident brown of a glowing radioactive orange, an effect of the carotin in self-tanning lotions. As the judge bravely kissed one of the woman winners, a pleasant enough stedevo with a Farrah Fawcett hair style, he seemed to recoil, afraid that his shirt would be indelibly stained.

Sadly, it is difficult to spot pale muscles. "It's a question of definition," said a contestant deploying the phrase like an Oxford don. "Everything's got to stand out, hasn't it?" It was difficult to disagree. Two hundred and fifty-two biceps can't be wrong.

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Margaret, Colonel in Chief, 15/19 King's Royal Hussars, is present when the Regiment and the Northumberland

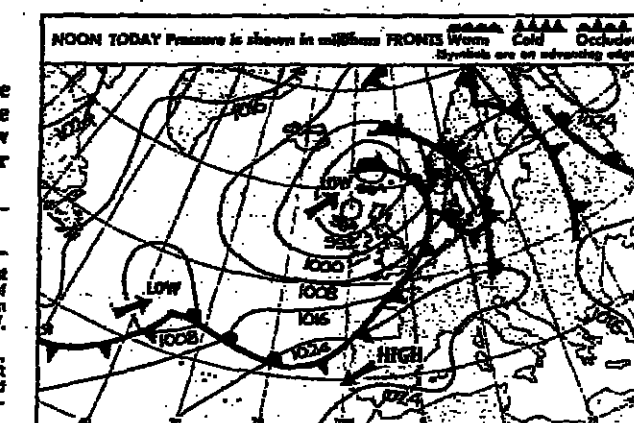
Hussars exercise the Freedom of the City, Grey's Monument, Newcastle upon Tyne, 11.20.
and then lunches with the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Mansion House, 11.45; later she attends the All Rank Dinner, Civic

Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 7.15.
The Duchess of Kent attends the final of the Football Association's Challenge Cup competition, Wembley Stadium, 12.30.

In the garden
Our daffodils have never been so good as in this late cold spring. The bulbs have increased in numbers. I put this down to the ample rains we had in May and June last year, and to generous leaf feeding and root feeding two or three times with soluble fertilizer. All spring bulbs enjoy this treatment, but not tulips.

Anniversaries
TODAY
Births: Jean Lannes, Duc de Montebello, marshal of France. Letour, France, 1769.
Deaths: George Vancouver, navigator of the Pacific coast of North America, Richmond, Surrey, 1798; Paul Revere, folk hero of the American War of Independence, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer, London, 1904; John Wesley Hyatt, pioneer of the plastics industry, Shott Hill, New Jersey, 1920; Joan Crawford, New York, 1977.

Weather
A depression centred to the NW of Scotland will move slowly NE. A trough of low pressure will move SE over England and Wales.



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High Tides

Location	AM	PM	Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	3.28	6.58	London Bridge	3.28	6.58
Aberdeen	2.59	3.9	Aberdeen	2.59	3.9
Abermouth	3.01	2.8	Abermouth	3.01	2.8
Belfast	12.12	3.7	Belfast	12.12	3.7
Cardiff	8.46	11.8	Cardiff	8.46	11.8
Devonport	7.26	5.2	Devonport	7.26	5.2
Dover	12.36	1.0	Dover	12.36	1.0
Falmouth	6.55	5.0	Falmouth	6.55	5.0
Glasgow	3.20	4.6	Glasgow	3.20	4.6
Hull	7.29	1.9	Hull	7.29	1.9
London	3.30	7.0	London	3.30	7.0
Leith	7.41	6.8	Leith	7.41	6.8
Liverpool	4.13	5.2	Liverpool	4.13	5.2
Lyons	11.28	2.3	Lyons	11.28	2.3
Margate	1.29	4.5	Margate	1.29	4.5
Mersey	7.35	6.0	Mersey	7.35	6.0
Newbury	6.45	6.5	Newbury	6.45	6.5
Oban	7.19	3.8	Oban	7.19	3.8
Portsmouth	6.23	6.3	Portsmouth	6.23	6.3
Portsmouth	8.26	1.8	Portsmouth	8.26	1.8
Southampton	12.56	4.5	Southampton	12.56	4.5
Stirling	11.49	12.7	Stirling	11.49	12.7
Swansea	8.07	9.0	Swansea	8.07	9.0
Widnes-on-Tyne	1.21	6.5	Widnes-on-Tyne	1.21	6.5
Widnes-on-Tyne	1.15	4.0	Widnes-on-Tyne	1.15	4.0

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,042

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, Box 486, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs M. C. Brown, 98 Killybeg Road, Larne, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; Miss R. E. Platt, Ivy Cottage, The Sands, Farnham, Surrey; The Rev. James Hawes, The Presbytery, Champion Road, Upminster, Essex.

ACROSS
1 Steward - shifts deter him a lot (6,1,5).
9 Princess participating in religious festival (7).
10 It stops the ball making a profit (7).
11 Searching for an advanced Liberal (7).
12 Gascon acquired one in the East of Gascony (7).
13 Some in custody for part of the hearing (5).
14 It replaced Byron's love in timber maze (9).
15 Lamenting stormy row (9).
16 Dog's memorial (5).
17 Unusual terrain for a coach (7).
18 For instance, former parliamentarian takes drink outside (7).
19 Talk preceding return of rented property (7).
20 Not one meal eaten by very large bankrupt (2,4,6).

DOWN
1 "Most fruit", said Richard, "is sweet" (7).
2 Exponents of batting taking risks (7).
3 Order your ball-point in colour (5,4).
4 Stupid, but studies English (5).
5 Best gold is found in the open air (7).
6 No one has time for raising an issue (7).
7 Later in the same document or form, I enter the RAF (12).
8 Felt sore so had an injection (3,3,6).
9 Fat prize for one of the boat people (9).
10 I traced a man from Persia (17).
11 Cloth makes girl enthusiastic (7).
12 Coach of foreign game (7).
13 Drive up the motorway with favourite American (7).
14 Criticize tax (5).

Music
Concert by the Hague Philharmonic Orchestra: Town Hall, Leeds, 7.30.
Handel's *Messiah* by the Birmingham Bach Society choir and Orchestra: Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.
Concert by the Aranjuez Guitar Trio: Assembly House, Norwich, 7.30.
Concert by the Canterbury Wind Players: St Mary's Centre, Lichfield, 7.30.
Concert by the Lindsay String Quartet: Crucible Studio Theatre, Sheffield, 7.45.
Concert by the Chester Bach Singers: Chester Cathedral, 7.30.
Concert by the Irwin Singers with Graham Shaw (tenor) and Nigel Pursey (organ): Holy Trinity Church, Bradford-on-Avon, 7.30.
Recital by Lynne Rowland (flute) and Dennis Down (guitar): St Peter's, Bexhill, 7.30.
Concert by Barclays House Choir and soloists and St John's Chamber Orchestra: St John's, Bescombe, 7.30.
Concert by the Holburne Group: Rochester Cathedral, 7.30.
Concert by the Delicate String Orchestra: St Anne's, Bagehot, 8.

General
Buxton Antiques Fair: Pavilion Gardens, Buxton; 12 to 9 daily, Sun 12 to 6 (ends May 17).
Breamore Museum Special: rare working steam exhibit; Breamore Country-side Museum, Breamore, Hants, today and tomorrow 11 to 6.
British Craft Fair: Great Hall, Birmingham University, 10 to 5 today and tomorrow.
Book Fair: St David's Hall, Cardiff, 10.30 to 5.
Book Fair: St Peter's Church Hall, Hatfield Rd, St Albans, 10 to 4.
A Sense of Style: Fashion 1920-1940; Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Tomorrow
Regional paintings by Robin Bowness and Tom Sisson; Towneley Hall Art Gallery, Burnley; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5 (ends June 22).
Music
Concert by the Oxford Harmonic Society: St Barnabas Church, Oxford, 8.
Concert by the Oldham Choral Society: St Anne's, Royton, 2.15.
Concert by the Halle Orchestra: Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 8.
Lecture
On the Crags, by John White; Lake District National Visitor Centre, Breckholes, Windermere, Cumbria, 1.30.
General
Vintage and Classic vehicle Road run: leaves pier approach, Bournemouth 9.45.
Woodland Open Day: flowers, nature trails, talks and craft displays; Tiddesley Wood, Peckers, Worcs, 10.30 to 5.30.

Gardens open
TODAY
Rosa and Cromarty: Invergowrie, Forfar; 10 to 5.15 (Mon-Fri), 10 to 5.30 (Sat-Sun).
TOMORROW
The Merry Men: Perth. The shrubs, alpines, herbaceous, peat garden plants from all over the world: 5.30 to 7.30.
Bertha: Jarness House, Hatch Bridge, 5m W of Winton, 10 to 5.30 (Mon-Fri), 10 to 5.30 (Sat-Sun).
Winton: Winton House, Winton, 10 to 5.30 (Mon-Fri), 10 to 5.30 (Sat-Sun).
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
The Merry Men: Perth. The shrubs, alpines, herbaceous, peat garden plants from all over the world: 5.30 to 7.30.

The pound
Bank
Australia \$ 2.16
Canada C 1.33
Hong Kong HK\$ 10.00
New Zealand NZ\$ 1.25
Singapore S\$ 1.25
Switzerland Sfr 1.50
USA \$ 1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr 50.00

Roads
London and South-east: Shepherds Bush Great Western congestion expected at junction with Shepherd's Bush Rd.
The Midlands: M6: Major congestion between junctions 4 (Bromsgrove) and 5 (Droitwich).
North-west: M6: Major congestion between junctions 2 and 3 (Widnes).
South-west: M5: Major congestion between junctions 2 and 3 (Widnes).
Temporary traffic lights at Datchet and Jolly Long Walk, Leamington Spa, 10 to 5.30 (Mon-Fri), 10 to 5.30 (Sat-Sun).
London: The FT index closed down 6.6 at 1330.3.

Lighting-up time
TODAY
London 9.06 pm to 4.46 am
Bristol 9.17 pm to 4.55 am
Edinburgh 9.39 pm to 4.29 am
Manchester 9.53 pm to 4.46 am
Penzance 9.24 pm to 5.12 am.
TOMORROW
London 9.09 pm to 4.44 am
Bristol 9.18 pm to 4.54 am
Edinburgh 9.41 pm to 4.37 am
Manchester 9.56 pm to 4.48 am
Penzance 9.26 pm to 5.11 am.

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; f. rain; s. sun.
Belfast 14.67
Birmingham 13.55
Bristol 12.81
Cardiff 14.57
Edinburgh 11.52
Glasgow 11.52
London 14.67
Manchester 13.55
Newcastle 13.55
Nottingham 13.55
Plymouth 13.55
Reading 13.55
Sheffield 13.55
Southampton 13.55
Stirling 13.55
Tottenham 13.55
Wolverhampton 13.55
Wrexham 13.55

Nuclear advice
The Foreign Office has issued a new telephone number for people planning to travel to Eastern Europe who are concerned about the effect of their journey nuclear disaster on their journey. The number is 01-21 3-6660 and replaces numbers previously used for such advice.

Tower Bridge
Tower Bridge will be raised tomorrow at 5.30am approximately.

Abroad
MIDDAY: c. cloud; d. drizzle; f. fair; fog; r. rain; s. sun; sn. snow; t. thunder.
Algeria c 19.70
Austria c 13.50
Belgium c 12.50
Canada c 1.33
Cuba c 24.00
Denmark c 16.00
France c 6.55
Germany c 12.50
Greece c 16.00
Hong Kong c 10.00
India c 15.00
Italy c 16.00
Japan c 160.00
Korea c 160.00
Malaysia c 2.50
Mexico c 16.00
Netherlands c 12.50
New Zealand c 1.25
Norway c 16.00
Poland c 16.00
Portugal c 16.00
Singapore c 1.25
Spain c 16.00
Sweden c 16.00
Switzerland c 1.50
Taiwan c 16.00
Thailand c 16.00
USA c 1.53
Yugoslavia c 50.00

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STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1330.3 (-6.6) FT-SE 100 1601.6 (-1.9) USM (Datastream) 120.64 (+0.27) THE POUND US Dollar 1.5385 (-0.007) W German mark 3.3501 (-0.0152) Trade-weighted 75.6 (-0.8)

Dollar drops to post-war low of 161 against yen

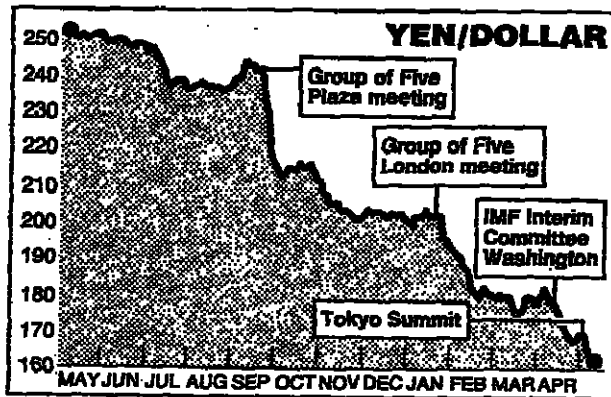
By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The dollar slumped to a post-war low of 161.90 against the yen yesterday. There are market expectations that it will soon drop below 160, and could be headed for 150.

The Bank of Japan again intervened to attempt to stem the dollar's slide, and prevent the yen from rising further. But, according to one currency dealer, "The Japanese may be making things worse by letting everybody know that not even intervention can stop the yen rising."

The yen has risen by nearly 60 per cent against the dollar over the past 12 months. The failure of the Japanese prime minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, to convince the other six countries attending the Tokyo economic summit of the problems created by the yen's surge, has done him considerable political damage at home.

Foreign exchange dealers believe that intervention to stop the dollar falling will be ineffective as long as it is



conducted by the Bank of Japan alone.

A London dealer said: "When the Bundesbank starts intervening in the European markets, people might decide that the dollar's fall has run its course."

There is a widely held view in the market that this could occur if the mark/dollar rate moves to DM2.15. Yesterday, it closed unchanged in London at DM2.1775.

However, the Bundesbank is playing down the possibility

of intervention to support the dollar and, in particular, that Germany has reached an accord with Japan on stopping their currencies rising against the dollar.

The dollar closed at 162.10, compared with 163.50 on Thursday. The yen has been rising against all currencies, including the mark, this year.

Japanese buyers were strongly in evidence during the week's \$27 billion US Treasury refunding operation, apparently little affected by

the yen's move. There were indications of heavy purchases of the 10 and 30-year bond issues, with one report that four Japanese securities firms bought \$6 billion of bonds on Thursday alone.

Overall, Japanese purchases during the week are likely to have been well in excess of \$10 billion.

The dollar's overall weakness - with economic data due next week expected to show a sluggish economy - disguised some selling of sterling after the Government's post showing in the local elections and the two by-elections.

The pound fell by just 60 points to \$1.5385 but the sterling index fell 0.6 to 75.6, reflecting weakness against other currencies.

Dealers believe that politics will play an increasingly important part in the pound's performance in the coming months.

The prospect of a General Election with no clear majority government is considered particularly bad for sterling.

Compensation ceiling for investors to be raised

By Lawrence Lever

The level of compensation available to investors under the new self-regulatory framework for investment businesses is to be substantially increased in the light of the Government's decision, announced on Thursday, to grant immunity to the self-regulatory organizations.

Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, has written to all the SROs, asking them to look again at the issue of compensation as the proposed £30,000 ceiling per investor is regarded by the Government as patently inadequate. A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday that the Government is looking for compensation levels to be increased to around £325,000. "We would be happy to see figures for compensation

similar to those in the United States," the spokesman said. "We would look at the Securities Industries Protection Corporation which pays up to \$500,000 for loss of securities, as an indication," he added.

The effect of the Financial Services Bill will make the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the new City watchdog, responsible for producing a compensation scheme which the Government is satisfied makes the best provision possible for investors.

A spokesman for the SIB said yesterday that in the light of Thursday's decision on immunity, "it was quite obvious that some form of quid pro quo is required. We can see the argument for raising the limit."

The SIB is understood to have been very surprised at

the extent of the immunity which the Government has granted the SROs. This extends to protect the SROs from actions for damages brought by members of the public for negligence.

Significantly, Sir Kenneth Berill, the chairman of the SIB, in his speech to the National Association of Pension Funds conference yesterday, made no reference to this aspect of the SROs' immunity in welcoming the Government's decision.

The SIB's proposals on compensation, released last December, do not apply to professionals. Moreover, the SIB has suggested that the scheme should be compulsory only for those seeking authorization directly from the SIB. The Government is understood to oppose both these proposals.

New legal challenge to TSB flotation

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

Scottish depositors of the Trustee Savings Bank have again thrown plans for the £1 billion flotation into confusion by deciding to appeal to the House of Lords over the question of who owns the bank.

Mr James Ross, the Scottish depositor who has already fought the TSB and the Treasury through the Scottish courts, said yesterday: "In my view there is still a case and I am prepared to go to the House of Lords and meet the considerable costs of doing so."

He may be joined by Mr John Vincent, a depositor with TSB England and Wales, who brought the case in England.

The appeal follows the failure of depositors in both the Scottish and English courts to gain a ruling saying that the TSB is owned by its depositors.

A ruling along these lines would make the flotation plans, which are based on the assumption that no one owns the bank, illegal.

Mr Ross said that although the depositors had not yet received the ruling they had hoped for, the basic question of ownership was still unresolved by the courts' judgments. He said that the recent English court ruling was clearly made on the expectation that the case would go to the House of Lords.

Mr Ross told the TSB that he had lodged his petition to the Lords yesterday. He said there was room for the case to be heard between June 16 and 19. "This is a little soon for our liking but it is a timetable to suit the bank which wants to get on with things."

Woolworth claims rejected

By Alison Eadie

Dixons Group, which is bidding £1.5 billion for Woolworth Holdings, has detailed its accounting policies in response to Woolworth's attack on its quality of earnings.

Dixons said that not a single penny of the pre-acquisition profits of Currys' credit business had been released into the 1985-86 profits. Currys' old accounting policy had been changed on acquisition, and the outstanding deferred gross profit on the credit business had been released as pre-acquisition profit.

Dixons also denied that there had been any significant gain from Currys' property portfolio. A full value had been put on the portfolio at the time of acquisition and had been incorporated into Currys' net assets.

There had been no benefit to profits from the release of stock provisions or from reduced depreciation charges created by other asset write-downs. The improvement in Currys' results was based on trading, Dixons said.

The electrical goods retailer has yet to announce its profits for the year ended on April 27, but City analysts are expecting an increase of more than 80 per cent to £72 million.

Aitken snubs £91m Oppenheim offer

By Richard Lander

Aitken Home International, the financial group, has come out with a strong rebuttal of the £91 million all-paper takeover offer from Mr Nick Oppenheim, the financier.

Aitken rejected the form of the bid, made on Thursday through Mr Oppenheim's Tranwood bosery group, and said it had the support of the Saudi Investment and Finance Corporation, which owns 15.2 per cent of its shares.

Aitken also said that investors owning a further 10 per cent of the group had indicated their support for the present management. On Thursday, Mr Oppenheim said his offer had been accepted by the 1928 Investment

Trust, which owns 6.8 per cent of Aitken.

Mr Tony Constance, Aitken's chief executive, who took up his job in March after a drastic fall in interim profits and a series of boardroom and management departures, described the bid approach yesterday as "unwelcome and prejudicial" and said the new management and company strategy were in place to chart the group's recovery.

He responded to Mr Oppenheim's remarks that Aitken was too diversified by saying the group had decided to withdraw from property while its stake in the loss-making HCI Holdings Canadian investment trust would be reduced.

GEC sells subsidiary

By Our City Staff

CH Industrial, an industrial holding company with interests ranging from car sunroofs to polymer products, has paid £4.5 million to GEC for Parnall and Sons, the office furniture and shopfitting group. CHI is issuing 6.63 million shares to GEC, enlarging its issued share capital by about a third, but these have already been placed at 69p each. CHI says the purchase price is equivalent to 8.2 times Parnall's estimated 1985-86 earnings.

CHI estimated its own pre-tax profits for the year ended March 29 at not less than £2 million, compared with the previous £4 million.

The company also made £1 million on the sale of shares purchased in Banro, another sunroof manufacturer, during last year's abortive takeover bid, although this is before, taking into account bid costs, which were put at £293,000 in the interim report. Annual dividends will also be increased to 2.4p from 2.11.

Thorn receives £128m cash from Bond

Thorn EMI said last night that it had received £128 million in cash from Mr Alan Bond for Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment and that a further amount would follow. The final payment depends on completion of an auditors' report.

As a result of the sale Thorn EMI has been relieved of commitments on financing and distributing films estimated to be worth more than £100 million.

The company said the cash and releases should be seen against Screen Entertainment's profits of £4.8 million.

The proceeds from this sale and the disposal of the company's cable television and programming interests will enable it to concentrate resources on its core businesses.

Cater Allen issue to raise £18.3m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Cater Allen Holdings, the City discount house, yesterday announced that it was raising about £18.35 million through a rights issue.

The company also revealed profits of £4.5 million for the year to April 30 compared with £3.71 million the year before.

The new Cater Allen shares are being issued at a deep discount to market value to avoid the need for underwriting. This will save the company about £400,000 in underwriting and issuing costs.

The directors said that the money would be used primarily to strengthen the company's existing areas of business. These include gilts trading and traditional short-term money

Merlin seeks full listing

Merlin International Properties, an Isle of Man company, is to seek a full listing on the Stock Exchange.

Merlin has an issued share capital of 12 million ordinary shares of 25p, and net assets for the year ended December 31 were £4.18 million, equal to 34.84p per share. Pretax profits were £230,274.

The company has developments in the Isle of Man, Canada and Australia. Merlin says its shares have been traded outside the market at 45p.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Junior market faces a mid-life crisis

The Unlisted Securities Market, popularly known as the "millionaire's club," wishes it to be known that its membership lists are now open.

The USM has found no shortage of recruits since its inception but there are signs that at the ripe old age of 5½ years, middle age is creeping in and it may need a youth serum.

A report just published by Peat Marwick, the accountant, notes that fewer companies joined the USM in the first three months of this year than in any quarter since the market opened.

The facts are that only seven companies were floated compared with 18 in the same quarter a year ago and 99 for the whole of 1985.

The USM is a major success for the Stock Exchange. It was created, nobly, to make it easier for young companies to gain access to venture capital by relaxing the entry qualifications of the main market; and commercially, with an eye to the competing attractions of other markets, by cutting the costs and reducing the rigmarole involved in a full Stock Exchange listing.

The market has had its ups and downs; the shakeout in electrical stocks might have proved fatal but it has survived such shocks and there has not been any shortage of companies willing to join up. Until now.

Peat Marwick suggests that the sudden drop might be explained in part by the acquisition of private firms, which would make good USM prospects, by larger companies before they have chance to get to the market. Other companies may be bypassing the USM and going for the prestige of a full listing. Another possible explanation is that the City is becoming more fussy about the companies it sponsors.

These reasons have the ring of truth, but one theory overlooked is that the USM has distanced itself from its roots. Far from providing basic risk capital it is appealing increasingly to more mature companies.

There is nothing remiss in imposing higher standards on entrants but there is a risk that the USM, as it looks over its shoulder at the proposed third tier market and the mushrooming Over-the-Counter area, will be sandwiched uncomfortably between start-up situations and the established main market. It would be sad if it were to become a dinosaur at such an early age.

Lunches discounted. The discount houses, whose directors were for years regarded as the core of the City's long-lunch brigade, have seen the future and concluded that it won't work without a lot of effort. The lunches have become shorter and surprising things are happening in the sector.

Yesterday's announcement by Cater Allen, one of the larger of the

breed, of a deeply discounted rights issue to raise £18 million of new capital emphasises the perception that size is crucial.

In a few short years the number of quoted discount houses has shrunk from nine to a mere four as the houses first merged and were then taken out of the stock market altogether as they were absorbed by the digestive systems of Citicorp and Banque Belge. The process continues as Prudential Bacch takes in Clive Discount and King & Shaxson looks set to take over Smith St Aubyn.

Size is essential because it reduces overheads as a proportion of total business. The smaller houses have increasingly had to take huge and dangerously exposed positions in the gilts and short-term money market to keep up with the earnings of their bigger brothers. Size also enables the houses to keep up with the steadily increasing volumes of the markets.

All very well, but confronted with the resources of a Citicorp can even the largest of the discount houses hope to maintain their position after the big bang?

The houses insist that in the last few years their expertise in even their most traditional markets of short-term bill trading has leapt forward. The larger houses now tend to take smaller positions, selecting their moment carefully and trading rapidly in and out of the market. They have also been sharpening their expertise in hedging risks through, for example, financial futures.

In theory, this reduces their risk and improves the quality of their earnings. What they lack in resources, in other words, they make up for in skill.

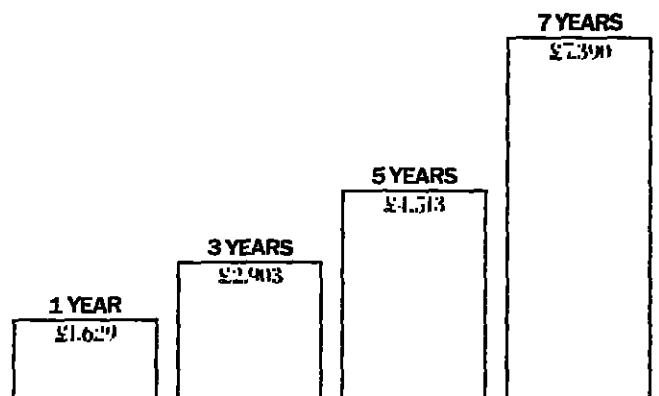
But the houses remain highly vulnerable as figures recently published by Smith St Aubyn as part of its position as a takeover victim reveal. At the end of February Smith disclosed that its net asset value was 37p a share; three weeks later it was 46p, two weeks after that it was 42p and then 47p again two weeks later.

To reduce this vulnerability the discount houses have started energetically to diversify. Cater Allen is going selectively into the new gilts market and already has interest in financial future and insurance.

Gerrard & National is aiming for a broader sweep across the money markets and could start to look like a small version of a US securities house. King & Shaxson is interested in money broking, while Clive has ambitions in stock lending.

Size will probably again count for much. In the current trend towards offering a complete securities market service, discount houses are likely to find themselves pushed increasingly in this direction, having to give up their ambitions of being "niche" players. It may as yet be premature to say that the discount house sector has ceased to exist, but the time cannot be far off.

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WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street stocks slipped in early trading yesterday as concerns over rising interest rates grew with an unexpected spurt in money supply figures reported on Thursday.

Four recession given to the US Treasury long bonds auction also contributed to the decline of equities, according to traders.

The M-1 figure, which was expected to fall slightly, showed an increase of \$3 billion.

"It is the first time anybody has mentioned money supply in six months," Mr Tony Woodruff of Kidder Peabody said.

The Dow Jones industrial average which slid 12 points to 1,775 in the opening hour soon showed signs of steadying at 1,781.00, down 5.21. The transport average edged up slightly to 783.49.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists various stocks and their prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns: Market rates, Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists sterling spot and forward rates.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists various foreign exchange rates.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists money market and gold prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London financial futures prices.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists dollar spot rates.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists other sterling rates.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists various commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London commodity exchange prices.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London metal exchange prices.

LONDON OIL EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London oil exchange prices.

LONDON RICE EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London rice exchange prices.

LONDON SUGAR EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists London sugar exchange prices.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists various investment trusts.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table with multiple columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists a wide range of unit trusts and their performance.

It is not our fault that our Omapol devium a ste subj set cust to our firm tried sep the Fur... T har list ang of coe me

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Recovery collapses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 28. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day May 19.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If a share price you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Staveley	Industrials S-Z	
2	Allied Irish	Banking Discount	
3	Levill (VT)	Building Roads	
4	House of Lerose	Drapery Stores	
5	Hollis	Drapery Stores	
6	Countrywide	Building Roads	
7	Lynton	Property	
8	NEI	Electricals	
9	Morgan Crucible	Industrials L-R	
10	Stanley (AG)	Drapery Stores	
11	Lex	Motors Aircraft	
12	Kayshaw (A)	Industrials E-K	
13	Car Auctions	Motors Aircraft	
14	Channon	Property	
15	Hambro	Banking Discount	
16	Castings	Industrials A-D	
17	Aurora	Industrials A-D	
18	Search-Search	Paper Printing	
19	Grand Met	Hotels Catering	
20	Raybeck	Drapery Stores	
21	Edbro	Industrials E-K	
22	Anchor Chemical	Chemicals Plastics	
23	Telephone Rentals	Electricals	
24	Babcock	Industrials A-D	
25	Bridon	Industrials A-D	
26	Enterprise	Oil	
27	Oliver (O)	Drapery Stores	
28	Industrials S-Z		
29	Avon Rubber	Industrials A-D	
30	BSR	Electricals	
31	Bodyzone	Industrials A-D	
32	RFD	Industrials L-R	
33	IMI	Industrials E-K	
34	Mollis	Industrials L-R	
35	Mt Int	Industrials L-R	
36	Wedwood	Industrials S-Z	
37	UEI	Electricals	
38	Nardin & Pascoot	Foods	
39	Prichard Ser	Industrials L-R	
40	Logica	Electricals	
41	Kode	Electricals	
42	MK Elect	Electricals	
43	Steeley	Industrials S-Z	
44	Lon & Pro Shop	Property	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

UNDATED

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

INDEX-LINKED

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open	%

BREWERIES

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

FINANCE AND LAND

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

FOODS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

CINEMAS AND TV

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

DRAPERY AND STORES

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

ELECTRICALS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

E-K

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

L-R

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

S-Z

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

PROPERTY

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

SHIPPING

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

SHOES AND LEATHER

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

TEXTILES

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

TOBACCO

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

INSURANCE

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

LEISURE

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

Mining

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

OIL

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	%

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND £16000
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Claims required for +177 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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EX: W' Ker' inst' Gur' Nor' May' GL' Voy' of a' Pet' first' Soc' Mo' Tro' 18.

GUI' Ros' prer' Will' eco' Tha'

Willi' Yvor' Oper' LIVE' Wick' Brail'

0254-53272

FAMILY MONEY/1

Edited by Lorna Bourke

Take care when you cover

INSURANCE

Just how important it is to read and understand the small print on your household insurance policy has been highlighted for some householders who took out contents insurance with the AA.

Two policyholders who insured their home contents with the AA discovered too late in the day that they were not fully covered. The problem lies to some extent in the promotional literature produced to sell the household contents policy. If you do not read or understand the small print you could easily be confused and think you had full contents cover - when, in fact, you may not.

The promotional literature says on the front "full protection" and "no need to calculate the value of all your contents". Yet when two AA Homeure policyholders were burgled and put in a claim, they were surprised to find their claim had been scaled down to take account of underinsurance.

Now General Accident which administers the AA Homeure policy is to "take a fresh look at the wording". A General Accident spokesman said: "There was no intention on our part to mislead or deceive policyholders."

But some policyholders have clearly been confused by the claims that the Homeure policy "cuts the risk of being underinsured" and removes the need to value all contents.

The problem is that the policy is designed only for those with contents up to £25,000. Anyone whose household possessions come to more than this is told to ask for an individual quotation. But some have missed this unobtrusive proviso. But if you do not work out the value of the contents, how do you know if they come to more than £25,000?



How the AA sells its Homeure policy

"The policy literature should be much clearer. I'm amazed this should happen with the AA which is such a consumer-orientated organization."

AA Insurance Services was set up in 1967 and now brings in £120 million a year in premiums on the 1.25 million policies sold. The AA Homeure policy is administered by General Accident but jointly underwritten by GA and Royal Insurance.

People living in the highest of the five rate bands, which includes central London and parts of Birmingham, would pay £116 for basic cover if they lived in a three-bedroom house and £143 for a four-bedroom house. Insurance for accidental loss or damage to jewellery anywhere up to £750 per item costs an extra £15 and accidental damage insurance an extra £33 for the three-bedroom house and £36 for the four-bedroom house.

In the lowest rated areas, including Dorset, the basic rates come down to £38 for a three-bedroom house and £47 for a four-bedroom house. These premiums cover contents up to £25,000 - no matter if you have just £10,000 worth of goods or £24,999. But anyone topping

Literature should be much clearer

household policies and is known as "averaging". If your underinsurance is 50 per cent, say, then only 50 per cent of the claim is paid.

"They fell for the advertising," said Mr Freeman. "They probably realized they had more than £25,000 worth of goods, but they did not think about it. They thought it did not matter as they did not have to decide the sum insured. They probably imagined it was a first loss policy where they were covered up to £25,000 and did not realize that any claim would be scaled down in proportion to the amount they were underinsured."

These sums assured cover up to a total loss of £13,000 for a three-bedroom property and £17,000 for a four-bedroom one. But even if the contents are worth more, when there is a claim for a smaller sum than there is no scaling-down. And if you take out a TSB mortgage you get a year's free contents insurance.

Vivien Goldsmith

How the bookies will make a few cool millions

GAMBLING

Armchair sportsmen have been in training for some time. The summer season is upon them, and a new intensive spate of watching is heralded by today's two big football matches. It is Cup Final day in England and Scotland, and soon we can expect 21 consecutive nights of the World Cup from Mexico.

For Britain's bookmakers this means big business. The FA Cup Final is football's equivalent of the Grand National. Tens of thousands will be visiting the bookmakers. William Hill expects to take at least £1 million, while Ladbrokes would not even make a guess. "Lots of the betting will be done on the day of the match, despite the risk of the odds changing slightly," says a Ladbrokes spokesman, "so we can't really say." But

Some punters bet on who will score

the company should take in a similar amount.

The money is coming from all over Britain. The battle between Liverpool and Everton has attracted interest from football followers throughout England and Wales, not just Merseyside. The Cup Final is easily the biggest footballing draw for gamblers' money, and the fact that both teams are from the same city this year will, strangely enough, probably increase the money wagered.

Graham Sharp, of William Hill, says: "It's going to be a close match, and it's local. There isn't even a North versus South element, so many people will have a bet to add a little interest."

Football, as we are constantly reminded by the experts, is a funny game. The bets, however, are straightforward compared with some of the arithmetical wizardry contained in racing wagers. You can put money on the result at 90 minutes - win, lose, or draw - or you can try to predict the score. Extra time does not count. Predicting the score inevitably attracts far

longer odds than bets on the outcome.

Another bet for the speculative punter is guessing who will score. The first footballer able to declare that he "just hit it, Brian, and it went in" will make some gamblers very happy this afternoon. Naturally enough, the odds are shorter for forwards and longer for defenders. But the bet is on the first scorer only; second and subsequent goals do not count. Predicting who will be winning at both full-time and half-time is the nearest you get to the racing double. To win you have to predict correctly which side, if either, will be winning at the end of both periods of play.

Football, however, is relatively staid compared with some of the more exotic bets on offer. You will be relieved to know that according to Ladbrokes the odds against extra-terrestrial beings landing on Earth in the next 12 months are 250-1. If you believe in the Loch Ness monster, the bookies will wager that neither you nor anyone else can prove its existence within the next year. Their confidence is more brittle this time; the odds are just 100-1. And, of course, who could forget the Papani enslave of 1976? British bookmakers took us to the world forefront of irreverence by offering odds on who would succeed Pope Paul.

You can bet on whether the FT 30-Share or American Dow Jones indices will go up or down. Both IG Index and Ladbrokes offer that bet, which some serious investors use as a hedge to protect their portfolios. IG Index will also bet on the date of the next general election (October 22 to November 19, 1987, are the favourite days) and the number of seats the major parties will have.

One practical tip if you do decide to risk your money at the bookmakers: pay the betting tax beforehand, especially on longer-odds bets. Tax is paid on the stake, or the winnings, if there are any. So if you do win you should save yourself money.

Martin Baker

Right now, where is the best place to invest £2,000 or more?

A pertinent question since city brokers can't agree whether the stock market is going to continue going up or about to decline. Some fund shares "overpriced" and others "under". Meanwhile, interest rates at banks and building societies tumble.

So where should you most sensibly invest your money? We offer an answer: the Scottish Equitable Performance Bond.

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In the years ahead will your pension plan keep pace with Life? British National

Table with 4 columns: Pension Fund, One Year, Two Years, Three Years. Rows include International, Equity, Managed, and Fixed Interest with performance percentages.

Deciding on a pension plan means that you have to select a fund which will perform well in future years. Consider British National Life Assurance, one of the pacesetters in the field, whose performance Money Management magazine recently described as "remarkably consistent". Check for yourself: over a three year period our four main pension funds have never been out of the top five in a field of 216 competitors. Just one reason why Citicorp, one of the largest financial institutions in the world, brought British National Life into the Citicorp group just three months ago. It's a potent combination for your pension plan: proven investment performance backed by Citicorp, an innovative leader in financial services, with assets of over £120 billion.

COMPANY DIRECTOR? YOU NEED PLAN-FOR-EXECUTIVES. As a company director you can set up a Plan for yourself (and your key executives) which attracts full Corporation Tax relief on company contributions and relief at the highest level of tax paid for individual contributions. The Plan offers portability for the individual and flexibility for the company; contributions can be increased when profit is available in a tax efficient manner. PAST PENSION BENEFITS? YOU NEED PLAN-FOR-PENSION PRESERVATION. Do you have benefits from past jobs which have simply been left "frozen"? Perhaps relatively small sums which were based on your salary at that time but no longer match your future needs. Chances are that your former employer has not even allowed for the effects of inflation. British National Life's Plan gives the opportunity for real growth. Don't delay your pension planning; every year that goes by without action decreases your pension potential.

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SPORT



Davis (left) reflects on what might have been as Johnson pots on towards the world championship last night

Johnson defies odds to win

By Sydney Friskin

Before the start of the Embassy world snooker championship at Sheffield, Joe Johnson, of Bradford, had little more than a pocketful of dreams. Now he has a pocketful of money — £78,000 for winning the 1986 title after beating Steve Davis 18-17 in the final last night.

As a 150-1 outsider in the early quotations, Johnson brought about the most unpredictable result for several years, which is an outstanding achievement for a man who turned professional in 1979, having before that earned his living as a motor mechanic and an employee of a gas board.

Davis, whose attempt to win the title for the fourth time was frustrated, tried unsuccessfully to loosen the grip which Johnson had taken at the start of the day, but although Davis played a number of brilliant shots he probably knew that he was up against a relentless scoring machine moving in top gear and in the right direction.

Nothing seemed too difficult for Johnson. He potted shots with

The Times 6th May 1986.

If they were unit trusts, we would still recommend the one who lost.

Performances in sport and investment are not entirely dissimilar.

Take the case of Joe Johnson, the man who dramatically lifted the World Snooker crown, a hitherto 150-1 outsider.

On the face of it, he would seem to have been an astute investment.

Indeed, paralleling the world of sport, a fund can often come from nowhere to top the investment league.

Ironically, many of the funds that top the league fail to maintain their momentum. In fact, in the last five years, the highest placed unit trust has failed to reach even the top 200 in its subsequent year.

It's easy to be seduced by the success of one dazzling fund. A phenomenon used by some companies to suggest their shrewd investment skills.

The picture they paint, we feel, is

somewhat misleading. Especially for prospective clients who may not have a broad view of the market place.

At Allied Dunbar we take the view that success in investment, as in sport, is all about one thing, consistency. Not just this year, but the next, and the next and so on.

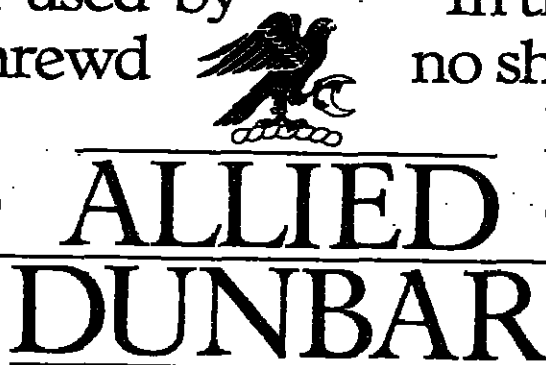
Over the last ten years, it's a philosophy which has kept over 70%* of our long term unit trust and life funds in the top half of their investment leagues and given our pension planholders a net return of 20.8% p.a.

Of course, as one of the founding companies in unit trusts, and now one of the three biggest, we have over 50 years of experience to call upon.

In the real world of investment there are no short cuts or easy answers.

Because for every Joe Johnson there's a score of Joe Soaps.

*Source: Money Management.



It is got furr fast the att on Mar that our O mai opel devl furn a ste subj bunj set c custi to c roon furn tried spec but sepa the Furr

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Willie Your Oper LIVE Wick Brail

سازمان اسناد و کتابخانه ملی

FAMILY MONEY/2

Loan war heats up, rates cool down

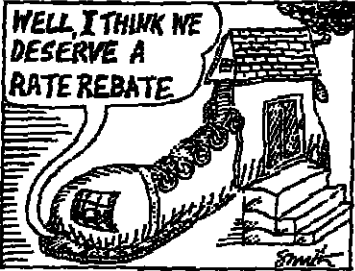
Home loan rates look set to fall still further during the summer months, according to the latest research carried out by Blay's Mortgage Guide.

However, borrowers should be cautious about some of the schemes as they are in some instances endowment-linked only, and the policies to which the loan is linked are not necessarily the best on the market.

cent for the first year. Those transferring a loan will get the expenses of the transfer paid by Midland.

Town hall haggle

There are not many taxes which you can haggle about but rates come into that category. If you think your rates are too high you can contest them and reductions are by no means uncommon.



RBS goes gold

It's only a matter of time before one of the high street banks starts to offer interest on your ordinary current account. In the meantime, the next best thing is the high interest account, the latest version of which has just been launched by Royal Bank of Scotland.

requirements. Seven-day deposit accounts are paying only 4.75 per cent.

No notice is required to withdraw funds from the Gold Deposit Account but if you let the balance fall below £2,000 you are heavily penalized on the interest rate - it drops to 2 per cent below the RBS seven-day deposit rate, which currently works out at a miserable 2.75 per cent.

Two wind-ups

Readers who put money with two companies called New Hampshire Investment Ltd and Global Guaranty Life Assurance Company SA will be interested to know that steps have been taken to have them both compulsorily wound up.

overseas and used mailing lists to send brochures to UK citizens inviting investments.

According to the department, New Hampshire invited investments into a range of investment bonds, while Global Guaranty offered investment in a range of insurance and building society-linked products.

It wants inquiries from creditors to go to the Official Receiver, DT1, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD (01-583 8937).

How you buy discounts

SHARES

Tony Doyle, an actor, and his wife Sally are renovating a ramshackle old house in Brittany. They like spending Easter and most of the summer in France.

About 18 months ago Tony bought shares in European Ferries, the company that runs the Townsend Thoresen cross-Channel ferries.

This year with another two trips planned they will save another £200. In the meantime, if they want to sell their European Ferries shares, they are now worth 160p each.

to 600. Unless the shares have risen to really heady heights, the Doyles say they are inclined to increase their shareholding. If they don't buy those extra shares, they will still be entitled to cut-price cross-Channel fares.

Shares in British Telecom and European Ferries are probably the two best-known perks for shareholders. In fact the British Telecom telephone voucher was only an incentive to get small investors to buy British Telecom shares when they went public in November 1984.

In the end, such was the scramble for the shares that they would have sold without the vouchers and there is no sign that British Telecom is going to repeat the perk.

There are about 110 companies offering discounts or special offers to their shareholders. With just a few rare exceptions, like European Ferries, shareholder perks should never be the sole reason for buying a share.

It is a much better policy to go for companies which you think are going to do well, and if they then shower you with

present, that is an added bonus.

There are other exceptions to this general rule. For example, anyone about to install a child's car seat could buy just one share in BSG International, and get 50 per cent off all Britax safety seats.

Other concessions range from Allied Lyons' wallet of special money-off vouchers for their restaurants and off-licenses, and a discount on a new Barratt home, to 20 per cent off Christmas hampers from Park Food.

The qualifications can be just one share, and cheap - and in the case of BSG International and Peters Stores where all shareholders get a 15 per cent discount in their 75 stores. Or it could prove expensive, as in the case of the Southampton IOW and South of England Packet where you need 2,400 shares at around 300p each to get a free passenger pass on the Southampton to Cowes crossing.

And then there are the oddities and the most highly-sought perks, such as the almost impossible to buy debentures in the All England



The Doyles are off to France: Now their shares ease the burden

Tennis Club which entitles you to Centre Court seats at Wimbledon. A £500 debenture costs around £16,500.

Brewers, hotel groups, and chain stores are the most generous towards their shareholders. A company like Marks & Spencer has always held out against offering shareholders any special perks. There is the view that once a company starts wooing its shareholders with free handouts, it is the time to sell the shares.

So why do some companies offer perks? Burton has operated a shareholders' discount scheme for some time. Philip Smith, Burton's assistant secretary says: "We introduced the scheme in 1979 to celebrate Burton's 50th anniversary

as a public company. We wanted to do something to reward our shareholders for their loyalty and faith in us. And once introduced, you can't then withdraw it. We don't actually know how much it costs us, because it has never been worth our while to

Lists are revised once a year

account for it separately, but we have the impression that it isn't much, and that only about one in 10 shareholders takes advantage of it."

Seymour, Pierce & Co and Kleinwort Greaveson are two brokers which compile lists of shareholder concessions. The Seymour, Pierce list costs £1.50 and is available from 10

Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA. The Kleinwort Greaveson list is free to anyone who sends in a large stamped addressed envelope to PO Box 191, 10 Finchchurch Street, London EC3M 3LB.

The lists are revised once a year. Sometimes they miss one or two of the small USM and Over-the-Counter shares. For example, Airship Industries will take shareholders up in their new scheduled airship trip round London for £50 rather than £100. The wine merchant, Jacques Mathiot Wine which trades on Afcor's OTC market, gives a 10 per cent discount off wholesale prices to anyone with more than 3,000 shares, now changing hands at around 63p.

Anthea Masey

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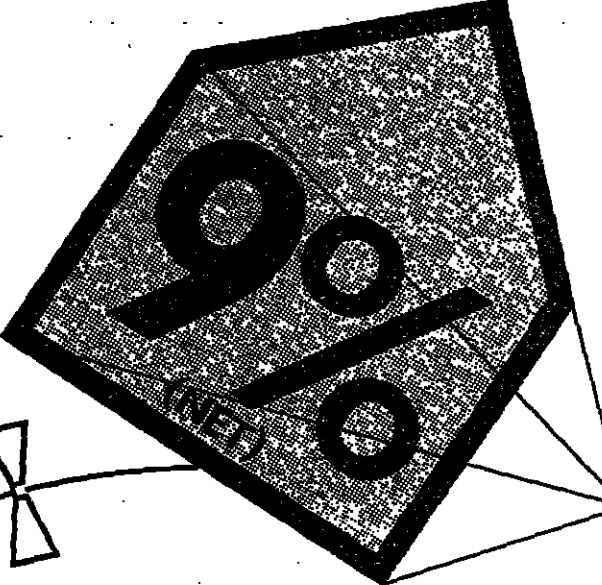
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The big day that brings big bills

WEDDINGS

Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson are not the only couple grappling with the logistics of their wedding, the details of which were announced on Thursday. This is the peak season for marriages, and the fathers of countless brides must be wondering what on earth it is all going to cost.

You can, of course, get married at your local register office for a mere £18. But not many people do. According to a survey carried out by the magazine *Brides and Setting up Home* earlier this year, most happy couples opt for a church wedding with all the trimmings — and all the expense. So where does the money go?

If you get married by certificate in a register office you have to pay £8 for notice given in each district. If you both live in the same district, only one of you need apply. In addition it costs £10 for the registrar to officiate at the ceremony and a copy of the marriage certificate costs £2. Marriage by licence costs £26. The price you pay for a religious marriage varies according to your faith. The Church of England has set fees for the reading of the banns. They are £4 for each of you if you live in separate parishes, £2 for a certificate of banns, and £33 for the marriage service. You also need a registrar's certificate costing £2.

Every individual church will charge its own rates for organ music, choirs, carpets and belfringers. At St Marylebone Parish Church, for example, you would have to budget

Diamond rings still the most popular

for a minimum of £10 for bells, £25 for the director of music, £20 for the organist, £15 a head each for a 10-strong choir and £20 for a soloist.

If you announce your wedding in *The Times* (in six lines on the court page) that will add £41.40 to your costs. The minimum you could spend on 100 invitations would be about £24 but a classic engraved copperplate formal invitation on folded card would be around £200.

Getting to the church on time and in style is another expense. Prices from Vintage Rolls-Royce Hire start from £185. If you set your heart on a glass coach pulled by a pair of matched greys, plus coachman and two footmen in full livery, then the Wellington Carriage Company can oblige, provided you live within 75 miles of Telford, Shropshire, at prices from £258 to £330.

Then there are the rings. Diamond engagement rings and gold wedding rings are still the most popular. More than a quarter of those who took part in the *Brides* survey spent between £100 and £200 on an engagement ring and third spent £50 to £100 on a wedding ring. However, 10 per cent spent more than £500 on an engagement ring and 8 per cent more than £250 on a wedding ring.

Prices for wedding dresses start at around £80 for the cheapest of those produced by bridal chains such as Berketex or Pronuptia. Laura Ashley wedding dresses start at £125. The most popular price is about £200 but if you want

£350 for a really spectacular dress

something made to order, exclusive or really spectacular, you are going to have to think in terms of about £350 upwards.

The price of a veil varies according to the fabric used — a long nylon veil would be around £60, a tulle one around £80, a silk one more than £100. Satin court shoes cost from £27. After all that, spending £5 on a pair of satin gloves, £7.95 on a bridal garter and £7.95 for "Wedding Belts" tights from Charros seems a mere slip.

Bridegrooms get off rather more lightly. To have a three-piece morning suit made to your measurements at Austin Reed in Regent Street costs from £130 to £350, although if you had a suit handmade by a tailor it would be considerably more expensive than that. A grey topper might cost a further £75. Then, of course, you would need to buy shoes, shirt, tie and gloves. Not surprisingly, most opt to hire

their outfits. At Austin Reed the whole package (shoes excepted) costs £33.95.

There are still the pageboys' and bridesmaids' clothes to consider. Laura Ashley, for example, has moire taffeta bridesmaids dresses for children from £60 to £68. Their sailor suits for little boys cost £36.95.

Flowers for the church, the reception and the bouquets are likely to add at least £100 to the final bill, and if you have a professionally made triple-tier wedding cake from, for example, Floris in London,

it will cost between £105 and £149.

Professional photographers often offer package deals including a wedding album and prices range from around £100 to £250. Video recordings are becoming increasingly popular and a typical starting price is around £120 for a two hour tape.

Obviously, the cost of the reception will depend on the venue you choose, the number of guests and the type of food and drink. At The Ritz, for example, it costs £100 to hire the Marie Antoinette Suite.

Finger buffet menus start from £9.75 up to £18 a head, sit-down menus from £21.50 to £41 a head. The Ritz champagne costs £22.50 a bottle, the house wine £8.75 a bottle. Prices for other wines start at around £15 a bottle. So if you had 100 guests and kept to the bottom end of the price range, you would still face a bill of around £2,000.

And finally, if you decide to press and frame your wedding bouquet as a lasting memento, don't forget to set aside between £30 and £50.

Lee Rodwell



Working out the cost of married bliss: David and Dinah

Stylish marriage for Dinah

Dinah Hall, 28, a claims administrator for an insurance company, and actor David Lloyd, 31, are getting married at Shere Church, near Guildford, Surrey, on May 24. Apart from the usual church fees, they will be paying the belfringers £25 and the organist £21 and they have decided not to have a choir. "I've chosen well-known hymns so that everyone can join in," says Dinah.

She is prepared to spend £200 on a white suit. She says: "I decided to be practical, rather than go for a do-or-die, one-day-only dress. But I'm having a wonderful hat made for £50, covered in net with a long trail. My best friend is going to be the bridesmaid. I don't know yet what she will wear, but I'll contribute if necessary."

"I haven't got an engagement ring but I saw a wedding ring I liked, a twist of gold and platinum, and one of David's friends is making it for us for £125. I'm being taken to the church in a horse and carriage and my sister and brother-in-law are paying for that as our wedding present. One of my father's friends is doing the flowers."

"We've invited about 150 people and it looks as if they are nearly all coming. The marquee for the reception at my father's farm cost about

£1,000 to hire and the catering will be another £2,000 or so for food and drink. The wedding photographs will cost £240."

David and Dinah are not planning a party in the evening, but they will be meeting some of their friends for a drink and are then going to the South of France for their honeymoon.

Do David and Dinah have any reservations about the total costs? They say: "We want ourselves and our friends to have a memorable day. The memories will stay with us for a long time. If we are going to get married then we want to do it in style. It's going to be an occasion, the best day possible. And if we have to spend money doing that, we have no regrets at all."

David had already bought himself a suit for £120 (which he needed to go to a friend's wedding. "I don't usually wear suits," he explained. So far he has not made up his mind whether to buy a new shirt and tie for the occasion.

The couple were given £2,000 by Dinah's father as a wedding present and decided to put this towards the cost of the wedding. David's own parents contributed £500 and his mother is making the wedding cake. Dinah's father is also spending about £1,500 on the cost of the reception.

Do David and Dinah have any reservations about the total costs? They say: "We want ourselves and our friends to have a memorable day. The memories will stay with us for a long time. If we are going to get married then we want to do it in style. It's going to be an occasion, the best day possible. And if we have to spend money doing that, we have no regrets at all."

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Law Report May 10 1986

Death before order executed is no ground of appeal

Barber v Barber

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Woolf

[Judgment given May 9] Where there was a "clean break" order by consent for financial provision in matrimonial proceedings, the death of one party before the order was executed but after the expiry of the time limit for appeal, did not of itself justify granting leave to appeal out of time.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Dillon dissenting, allowing an appeal by the intervenor, Jacqueline Florence Calouin, from Judge Smithies's decision in the County Court at Eastbourne on November 15, 1985 who allowed the application by the husband, David Donald Peter Barber, for leave to appeal and allowed his appeal against a consent order dated February 20, 1985 of Mr Registrar Fuller.

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC and Mr Jeremy Talham for the appellant; Mr Alan Ward, QC and Mr H. J. Shaw for the husband.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON, dissenting, said that the husband and wife were married in 1973 and had two children born in 1976 and 1978. The five-bedroom matrimonial home was owned by the parties jointly, subject to mortgages.

The marriage broke down and the wife presented a petition for divorce in February 1984, claiming also ancillary relief. It was founded on adultery by the husband with another woman whom he had since married.

The decree absolute was pronounced in September 1984. The husband left the matrimonial home where the wife remained with the children. Care and control of the children was awarded to the wife with sole access to the husband.

The case was appropriate for clean-break financial provisions, and after negotiations a consent order was made on February 20, 1985. It was expressed to be in full and final settlement of all claims made or capable of being made by the parties against each other.

It provided that the husband should within 28 days of the order and release to the wife all his legal and equitable interest in the house and the proceeds of sale thereof and in the contents. The wife undertook that on transfer she would redeem the mortgages. There were also undertakings as to certain life policies held by the mortgages and the husband was ordered to pay periodic payments to the children.

The husband had five days to appeal against the order but did not. On March 25, 1985 the wife killed both the children and committed suicide. Although the time limit of 28 days had expired, the registrar's order was still not executed.

On April 23, 1985 the husband issued a notice to appeal out of time against the order and the wife's mother was given leave to intervene to oppose the application. The judge gave leave to appeal, allowed the appeal and

held that the order ought to be set aside because its basis had been vitiated by a fundamental mistake, common to both parties, namely that for an appreciable period the wife and children would continue to live and benefit from the terms of the order.

However, the judge misdirected himself in that line of reasoning. The common mistake had to be a mistake as to existing facts at the date of the contract, and of that there was none.

It was not enough to bring the doctrine of common mistake into play that there was a common failure to predict correctly future events.

However, his Lordship did agree with the judge that the husband ought in those rare and exceptional circumstances to have leave to appeal out of time against the order.

In the light of the unforeseen events which happened so soon after the date of the contract, the judge was right to reconsider the order and was entitled to take into account events which had occurred since the order.

The supervening tragedy was wholly unrelated to the making of the order. If in fact the transfer had been executed within the 28 days there could not have been any justifiable ground for appeal.

The executory nature of the order was comparable with the right to execute a judgment. The death of the wife did not in itself afford any ground for appealing against the consent order and in the circumstances there was no ground upon which the judge could have granted leave to appeal.

There was no "respondent" upon whom to serve the notice. The matrimonial cause had terminated. His Lordship could not agree with Lord Justice Dillon and would allow the appeal on the basis that the judge did not have jurisdiction to grant leave to appeal out of time.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that there was no requirement that the wife and children should occupy the house and if before her death the wife had given the house away, the husband would not have had any right to complain.

The position was not altered because of the unexpected circumstances which brought the occupation to an end. Once leave to appeal was given the court could look at the circumstances as they existed, namely with the knowledge of the deaths. The order would then obviously have to be set aside.

The mistake was treating the issue of leave to appeal as the result of the appeal as raising the same question and therefore the appeal should be allowed. Solicitors: Wood, Nash & Winter; Thomson Snell & Passmore, Tunbridge Wells.

Solicitors gain rights in Supreme Court

Practice Direction (Solicitors: Rights of Audience)

Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Kennedy in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on May 9 read the following practice direction signed by Lord Hale, Lord of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, Lord Lane, Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division.

"In addition to the cases in which solicitors already have rights of audience in the Supreme Court, and without prejudice to the discretion of a judge to allow a solicitor to represent his client in open court in an emergency, a solicitor may appear in the Supreme Court in formal or unopposed proceedings, that is to say, those proceedings where - (a) by reason of agreement between the parties there is unlikely to be any argument and (b) the court will not be called upon to exercise a discretion.

"A solicitor may also represent his client in the Supreme Court when judgment is delivered in open court following a hearing in chambers at which that solicitor conducted the case for his client."

Portfolio Gold

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1 Times Portfolio is free. From the Times it is not a condition of taking part.

2 Times Portfolio list comprises a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in the Times Stock Exchange prices page. The companies comprising that list will change from day to day. The list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers.

3 Times portfolio 'dividend' will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (ie, the largest increase or lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of shares which on any one day comprise The Times Portfolio list.

4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Saturday in The Times.

5 Times Portfolio list details of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers.

High-tech explosion leads to four engine blow-ups in a row

From John Blunsden, Monte Carlo

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It has been described as a computer buff's paradise; but occasionally it can turn into a nightmare, as the Canon Williams team discovered on Thursday.

On the first day of practice and qualifying for tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix they experienced four engine blow-ups in quick succession, which left Nelson Piquet languishing in thirteenth place on the provisional starting grid and Nigel Mansell only 22nd in the list of times, which means that he has yet to qualify for the 20-car race.

The cause of it has been traced to a chip - the wrong chip - which resulted in the engines running too leanly, overheating and breaking pistons.

Having diagnosed the problem, the team can be expected to bounce back strongly in today's final qualifying and to secure their customary places near the front of the grid. If the weather remains dry, that is, Williams are not the first team to suffer from computer-induced hiccups. Marlboro McLaren lost both their cars from this year's opening race in Brazil with an identical engine failure provoked by a fault in the engine management system. At least Williams and Honda can be consoled that they discovered their problems before rather than during the race.

Given dry conditions, everyone can be expected to improve on their Thursday times today if only because the Monaco circuit invariably becomes faster as the weekend develops and more rubber is laid on the track surface. Understeer has proved to be the Achilles heel for most teams and overcoming it usually means adopting what one senior engineer described to me as "a set of fairly unhappy compromises". It is all a matter of balance. "Around here", he added, "if you get the front working right, sure as hell you're going to give

something away at the back." And that usually means sacrificing traction - a vital ingredient in a fast lap time on a slow circuit. This is where Ferrari, in particular, have been suffering during qualifying.

Olivetti Brabham are beginning to climb back into contention, radical new cars, a new exhaust system and some repackaging of turbo equipment down the left side of the car having taken them about 50 per cent towards where they should be, according to the chief designer, Gordon Murray.

Meanwhile, Ayrton Senna will be difficult to displace this afternoon from his fourth consecutive pole position of the season with his JPS Lotus. His two qualifying runs on Thursday were far from perfect (his own words), which suggests that a lap in under 1 minute 24 seconds is within his capability.

At the other end of the field a place anywhere on the starting grid must be the main target and this could well require a lap time of no more than 1 minute 27.5 seconds - a standard which so far only 12 drivers have managed to attain.

Swiss scales sailor's Everest

By Barry Pickthall

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TENNIS

Public ignore the computer fodder

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

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Matches like that have been happening all the time during a five-week circuit that has served as an interim examination for aspiring professionals but has been a non-event for the public.

The circuit will end at Lee-on-Solent next week, when the 16 leading men will contest a "Masters" tournament and 32 women will take part in an up-graded event carrying £17,857 in prize money. Both the sexes will also be striving for results that, once digested by the relevant computers, could improve the players' world rankings.

The 16 men at Lee will include a respectable contingent of six British players: Stuart Bale, Jonathan Smith, Mike Walker, Andrew Castle, Stephen Balfield and Jonathan Southcombe. The British women engaged will be Sally Reeves, Joanne Louis, Julie Salmon, two wild card (invited) competitors, Julie Wood and Belinda Borneo, and possibly one or two qualifiers.

Miss Zvereva has contested a semi-final and two finals in consecutive weeks. Even at this modest level, that is good going for a slim 15-year-old. Yesterday she had a 6-2, 6-2 win over Pascale Etchemendy, of Biarritz,

who won the Queen's Club segment of the circuit. Miss Zvereva was warned for tossing her racket towards the umpire's chair.

Elsewhere, Nicole Pietrangeli, aged 18, who lives near Amsterdam, was warned for whacking a ball into the empty terraces. Both incidents were trivial, except as reminders that players are never too young to pick up petulant habits. Miss Jagerman was beaten 6-4, 6-2 by Miss Okamoto, whose Oriental serenity does not permit emotional self-indulgence.

The men's semi-finals featured Patrick Flynn, of Brisbane, aged 17, and the winners of the three previous tournaments: Thierry Pham (France), Denis Gonsky (South Africa) and Gilad Bloom (Israel). Pham is not only a better player than Flynn. He is almost seven years wiser. Pham won 6-1, 6-1.

Maasdrop had a nasty cold when Bloom beat him in a semi-final last week. Yesterday Maasdrop's 13th 7th was in better condition and he beat Bloom 7-6, 6-3 in a match that would have done justice to the early rounds of those more distinguished Bournemouth tournaments of 20 years ago.

RESULTS: Women's quarter-finals: P. Etchemendy (Fr) vs M. Zvereva (Bel) 6-2, 6-2; J. Wood (GB) vs B. Borneo (GB) 6-2, 6-2; S. Reeves (GB) vs J. Salmon (GB) 6-2, 6-2; J. Louis (GB) vs J. Wood (GB) 6-2, 6-2. Semi-finals: K. Okamoto (Jpn) vs N. Jagerman (Bel) 6-4, 6-2; Zvereva vs Etchemendy 6-2, 6-2.

THIRD ROUND: L. Lindell (GB) vs K. Krickstein (USA) 6-2, 6-4; V. Noth (Fr) vs P. McNamee (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; P. Araya (Pan) vs D. Perez (Ur) 5-7, 6-3; G. West (Arg) vs L. Levavie (Mex) 6-2, 6-2; J. Nyström (Swe) vs T. Wilson (US) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2; B. Becker (West) vs B. Borneo (GB) 6-2, 7-5; T. Tuzano (Ur) vs M. Sreber (C) 6-3, 6-4; M. Jaga (Arg) vs B. Orsler (Arg) 6-3, 6-3.

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RUGBY UNION

Hall moves to No 8 for Egerton

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

John Hall, the Bath blind-side flanker whose potential as a No. 8 has been discussed so frequently in the past, will get the chance to play there when England B meet Italy in the Olympic stadium here this evening. He will do so at the expense of Egerton, his club colleague who tore ankle ligaments in training on Thursday evening and had to withdraw from the selected side.

It is bad luck on the lanky Egerton and it seemed, at the time, that worst might follow, since Hall himself fell heavily on his shoulder three minutes later. He has recovered from the surgery but, however, will oppose Russo, the only newcomer to the Italian side, with Peter Cook, of Nottingham, coming in to complete the back row.

In New Zealand last year with the senior side there was some possibility that Hall might play No. 8 with Cooke (Harequins) and Rees (Nottingham) as his flankers. In the event the experiment was not tried; indeed Hall has not played there for three years, though he sometimes occupies the No. 8 position at the lineout. With next year's world tournament in mind, it will be instructive to see how he plays in the new position and also to see Cook's worth at this level. Twice the Nottingham man has been close to a cap, during the last year and four years ago; he, too, has distinct possibilities.

Those training mishaps apart, England have been fortunate with injuries. They will want Bainbridge to win more lineout ball than Redman and Morrison contrived on Wednesday against Italy and they will look for greater concentration from the backs, it is Salmons who has not played there for three years, though he sometimes occupies the No. 8 position at the lineout. With next year's world tournament in mind, it will be instructive to see how he plays in the new position and also to see Cook's worth at this level. Twice the Nottingham man has been close to a cap, during the last year and four years ago; he, too, has distinct possibilities.

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YACHTING

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Hair-raising service: Martina Navratilova clenches her teeth as she clinches victory over Susan Mascarin in Tokyo

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Merseyside clubs meet in FA Cup Final for first time in competition's 114-year history

LIVERPOOL have had to live down the the tragedy of last season's European Cup final in Brussels while overcoming the loss of Soames. Their list of honours in the domestic and European game is endless: 15 times league champions, twice FA Cup winners, four times Milk Cup winners, four times European Cup winners, and twice UEFA Cup winners to name but a few. Victory would give them the elusive League and FA Cup double, hitherto achieved only by Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

Clive White on the probable Wembley teams

EVERTON are seriously challenging for supremacy on Merseyside — and therefore national supremacy — after 14 years in the shadow of their neighbours and natural enemies. Seven times first division champions, four times FA Cup winners and Cup Winners' Cup holders. Defeat in last May's final cost them a unique treble. They beat Liverpool in the Charity Shield in August but victory in their third consecutive FA Cup final is essential if they are to save face after relinquishing their League title to Liverpool.



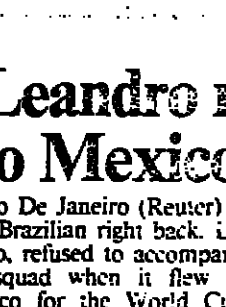
BRUCE GROBBELAAR Goalkeeper



STEVE NICOL Right back



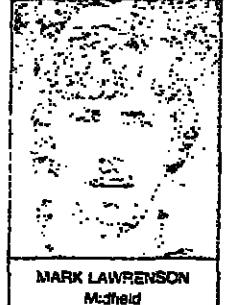
GARY GILLESPIE Centre back



ALAN HANSEN Centre back



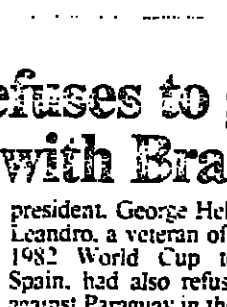
Originally understudy to Neal, but equally impressive in midfield. Joined from Aston for £300,000 and will represent Scotland in Mexico. Forceful forager.



An unpredictable player who has found his niche after five seasons. Born in Johannesburg and signed from Middlesbrough for £500,000. Speedy, tricky player.



The great Dane who like a Hans Christian Andersen fairytale has developed into a player of beauty under Dalglish. Signed from Ajax. Delicate distribution.



Explosive Wembley debut four years ago against Tottenham. Signed from Home Farm, Dublin in 1979 and again into double figures in goals. Slippery with a good shot.



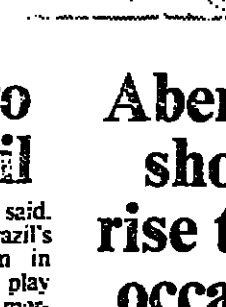
Hero or villain? Everton successor to Clemence. Born in Dublin and played for Zimbabwe, Vancouver and Crewe. Acrobatic, courageous and risky.



Britain's best defender but no less a player in midfield. Signed from Brighton for record £240,000 in 1981. Tackles with precision rather than power. Quick.



Man of the moment. Instrumental in their championship success on the field, his first season as manager. Scotland's most capped player. Shrewd, lethal.



The most prolific goalscorer of modern times. Bought from Chester for £30,000 five seasons ago. Welsh team-mate of his marker today. Ratchiff.



Inconsistent after a successful impact upon arrival from Leicester. A broken arm ended a recent goal-scoring spell. One-paced but capable of inspiring by his effort.



Most improved player in the team. Signed from Dumbarton for £150,000 in 1980 and a member of Scotland's World Cup squad. Ideal target man with fine control.



Player of the year in anyone's poll. Cost £300,000 from Leicester. Signed from Stoke for £700,000 in 1982. Low stakes first through injury. A busy bee.



Everton's answer to Liverpool's original 'superstar'. Fairground. Signed from Stoke for £700,000 in 1982. Low stakes first through injury. A busy bee.

Routes to the final

Liverpool: Third round: Norwich (h) 5-0. Fourth round: Chelsea (a) 2-1. Fifth round: York (a) 1-1: (replay, h) 3-1 (after extra time). Sixth round: Watford (h) 0-0: (replay, a) 2-1 (after extra time). Semi-final (at White Hart Lane): Southampton, 2-0 (after extra time).



Alan Robinson (above), the referee for today's match, is a 49-year-old civil servant from Waterlooville, near Portsmouth. He retires after today's game.

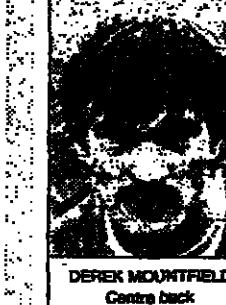
A lifelong Portsmouth supporter, he has been the man in the middle for 30 years, since he was 19. "I played in local football but I was a frustrated player," he said. "I was never any good. So I turned to refereeing."

He refereed the Milk Cup final between Everton and Liverpool, at Wembley in 1984, and also the replay at Maine Road. "It was such a fine, sporting event," he says. "I just hope it will be the same again."

He admits he will be nervous before the match. "I get pre-match nerves before every game, let alone a cup final," he admitted. "But that's not a bad thing. If you get complacent you can make a real hash of things. I like to keep the game flowing and I try to keep a low profile. The crowd come to see the players, not the referee."



Left: Rotherham as an England under-21 to become an Everton reserve. Exceeded all expectations in replacing the injured Southall. As tall as a basketball player.



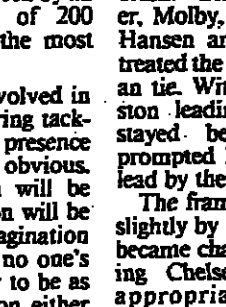
Joined from Burnley for £225,000 in 1983. Goalscoring midfielder-cum-winger in the Coppel mould and Mexico bound. Could prise open Liverpool.



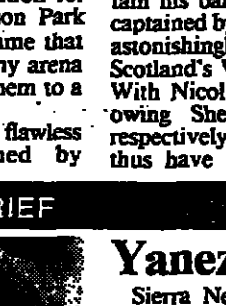
The most accurate ball striker in either team. Born in British Wells but represents Republic of Ireland. Free-kick specialist. A regrettable absentee this season.



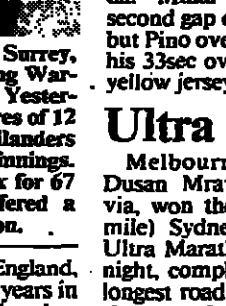
Player of the year in anyone's poll. Cost £300,000 from Leicester. Signed from Stoke for £700,000 in 1982. Low stakes first through injury. A busy bee.



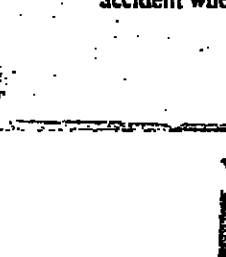
Everton's answer to Liverpool's original 'superstar'. Fairground. Signed from Stoke for £700,000 in 1982. Low stakes first through injury. A busy bee.



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Leandro refuses to go to Mexico with Brazil

Rio De Janeiro (Reuter) — The Brazilian right back Leandro, refused to accompany his squad when it flew to Mexico for the World Cup finals. The plane was delayed more than an hour to give Leandro time to reconsider but it left without him after his team colleagues, Zico and Junior, had gone to his flat to try to persuade him to change his mind.

"Leandro has been very depressed lately. Since he did not wish to discuss his decision, I decided not to push him further," the Flamengo president, George Helal, said. Leandro, a veteran of Brazil's 1982 World Cup team in Spain, had also refused to play against Paraguay in the Americas Cup tournament in 1983.

Leandro is the top Portuguese defender. Antonio Valoso was excluded from his country's World Cup squad hours before the team was due to leave for Mexico. Tests revealed that the Benfica player was suffering from a neurological problem that made him unfit to play. He will be replaced by Fernando Bandeira.

Aberdeen should rise to the occasion

Every neutral football follower who was enthralled by the exploits of Heart of Midlothian in the league is ardently hoping they will find consolation for their ill-fated romance by winning the Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park today.

The bookmakers, however make their opponents, Aberdeen, favourites to take the trophy. Although they failed to retain their league championship because of inconsistent play, they are more likely to show their best form on the big occasion.

It may be significant that victory for Aberdeen today would make them the first side, other than Rangers and Celtic, to win both domestic cups in the same season, after their 3-0 Skol Cup victory against Hibernian.

Hearts, however, have shown they are unlikely to freeze because their success has come from solid teamwork and a simple pattern of play. The most difficult task for Alex Macdonald, their manager, will be to restore morale after their unexpected stumble at the last league hurdle when they lost to Dundee, allowing Celtic to take the championship.

Aberdeen's resolute defensive partnership of McLeish and Miller will be hard pressed to contain the venomous attacks led by the Hearts trio of Clark, Robertson and Colquhoun, but on the other hand, Aberdeen are more experienced and powerful than Hearts, even without the sprightly Black, who is joining the French club, Metz, and is dropped from the cup final team.

Whether Aberdeen are as menacing as Hearts in attack may be questioned but Joe Miller is one of the country's most promising attackers. Weir, an entrancing winger and McDougall and Hewitt noted scorers.

Aberdeen, then, appear the more likely winners, even more so because the country's history shows that misfortune rather than triumph is usually the fate of fleeting flowers of Scotland.

ABERDEEN: J. Leighton, S. McMillan, T. McQueen, J. Bell, A. McLeish, W. Miller, W. Stark, J. Hewitt, M. Cooper, J. Hewitt, J. Miller, F. McDougall, P. Weir. HEARTS: H. Smith, W. Kidd, B. Whittaker, S. Jardine, G. Lovell, Black, N. Berry, R. McDonald, G. Mackay, J. Colquhoun, S. Clark, J. Robertson, G. Cowie.

Dalglish, Freeman of Wembley

England's World Cup squad, ensconced in Colorado Springs in their build-up to Mexico, will be unable to watch live coverage of the FA Cup final. Although the Wembley showpiece between Everton and Liverpool is being beamed live to around 50 countries, the United States is not among them.

The swiftest player to be seen by an estimated audience of 200 million today, nor the most energetic.

He may not be involved in many of the shuddering tackles nor will his presence always necessarily be obvious. But no one's touch will be softer, no one's vision will be wider, no one's imagination will be brighter and no one's contribution is likely to be as influential. No one on either side, in other words, is as talented.

Bob Paisley his assistant, describes him as "the man with magic in his boots" and Everton have painful memories of how spellbinding he can be. Last September he picked an unexpected formation for the derby at Goodison Park and, in a stunning game that would have graced any arena in the world, he led them to a 3-2 triumph.

Liverpool's almost flawless performance, opened by Dalglish himself with a goal after a mere 20 seconds, was to prove decisive not only on the day but, since they eventually finished two points in front of their neighbours in the final table, in the season itself. Can they close with a display of similar quality to enrich the occasion at Wembley?

As eight months ago, Dalglish is keeping his line up locked inside his tactical brain. Then he closes a sweeper, Molby, to tidy up around Hansen and Lawrenson and treated the fixture as a European tie. With Rush and Johnston leading the breaks, he stayed behind them and prompted Liverpool to a 3-0 lead by the interval.

The framework had altered slightly by the time Liverpool became champions by defeating Chelsea last Saturday, appropriately through Dalglish's lone goal. Molby has since strolled elegantly into midfield where Macdonald has taken over from McMahon and Lawrenson has shifted across to allow Gillespie to share the defensive marking duties with Hansen.

Dalglish is expected to retain his balanced side that is captained by Hansen, who has astonishingly been left out of Scotland's World Cup squad. With Nicol and Beglin standing steady and Steven respectively, Liverpool would thus have numerical advan-

agement in midfield, the crucial area. Remarkably, Liverpool have yet to lose a match in which Rush has scored and his personal duel with his Welsh international colleague, Ratchiff, will be one of the more significant features. Mounfield, missing through injury in September and troubled by a swollen knee this week, is in danger of being excluded again.

Howard Kendall, given no choice but to delay the publication of his team sheet until Mounfield's fitness has been assessed this morning, has been disturbed all season by absenteeism. Apart from Southall, Everton trust that they will otherwise be at full strength but their recent form in the Caron League has not been convincingly fluent.

Liverpool, finishing as strongly and as rhythmically as ever, maintained a run of ten victories and a draw and, more poignantly, they already have a trophy to mark Dalglish's first season in charge. As he himself says, "we can afford to relax and the pressure must be on them to win something."

Lineker, with 39 goals to his credit, has blossomed in his partnership with Sharp. Everton's most improved individual, but neither of them should expect to remain unaccompanied for more than a few of the forthcoming 5,400 seconds. Liverpool's most niggling fear may centre not so much on the opposition but on their own goalkeeper.

Grobbelaar, an entertaining showman who regards the whole penalty area as his stage, has mistimed his visits to its furthest extremities with embarrassing consequences.

Mimms, Southall's abled deputy, will face a wider variety of potential danger men, one of whom is Molby, armed with one of the fiercest shots in the game. If Liverpool should win it for the sake of Dalglish, somebody should win it for the sake of England and Scotland. A replay would postpone the preparation of seven of their World Cup representatives.

FA Cup Final betting, page 21

Advertisement for Allied Dunbar financial services. Text: "If you die or if you don't these two booklets set out your financial options." Includes contact information for Allied Dunbar.

Advertisement for Jaguar out in front. Text: "Jaguar moved a step nearer to recapturing old glories in the Le Mans 24-hour race of 29 years ago by securing the first two places around this eight-mile French road circuit in practice yesterday."

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Advertisement for Yanez wins. Text: "Sierra Nevada, (Reuter) — Felipe Yanez, of Spain, won the 191km 17th stage of the Tour of Spain cycle race, but Robert Millar, of Scotland, and Alvaro Pino, of Spain, are favourites to win the event after a dramatic duel on the 30km climb to the snow-capped peaks of Sierra Nevada."

Advertisement for Ultra success. Text: "Melbourne (Reuter) — Dusan Mravljic, of Yugoslavia, won the 1,000-km (625-mile) Sydney to Melbourne Ultra Marathon on Thursday night, completing the world's longest road race in just over six and a half days."

Advertisement for Veteran Sky Fly takes pair to new heights. Text: "Gillian Greenwood gained her most significant victory since winning the 1984 junior since winning the 1984 junior European title when she won the Toshiba national ladies' championship at the Royal Windsor horse show yesterday."

Advertisement for Jaguar out in front. Text: "Jaguar moved a step nearer to recapturing old glories in the Le Mans 24-hour race of 29 years ago by securing the first two places around this eight-mile French road circuit in practice yesterday."